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Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report has been prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/93. It focuses on the Israeli practices affecting the human rights of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with a particular focus on the Gaza Strip in the aftermath of the 2014 escalation and factors affecting reconstruction and recovery in Gaza. It provides updates on accountability measures by duty bearers and treaty accession by the State of Palestine.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report covers the period from 16 May 2014 to 31 May 2015. It is based primarily on monitoring and other information-gathering activities carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

2. The report should be read in conjunction with the report of the Secretary-General on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and the Occupied Syrian Golan (A/70/351) and other recent reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/28/80 and Add.1, A/HRC/28/44 and A/HRC/28/45).

3. The report focuses on the factors that continue to prevent Palestinians from enjoying their human rights, one year after the escalation in hostilities[1] in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in the summer of 2014. It presents an analysis of how the continuing blockade of Gaza is undermining reconstruction and recovery efforts, including as regards the economy and the provision of basic public services. It also provides an update on the situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and an explanation as to how lifting the blockade and accountability for violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law are prerequisites for sustainable peace and security.

4. Israel granted access to the Gaza Strip to the United Nations Board of Inquiry to conduct field visits from 26 November to 13 December 2014. However, the refusal of Israel to cooperate with the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1 and other mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967, remains of serious concern. Access to Israel and entry into the Occupied Palestinian Territory has been repeatedly denied to those entities.

II. Legal framework

5. International human rights law and international humanitarian law are applicable in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. A detailed analysis of the applicable legal framework, including the basis of the legal obligations of the duty bearers, can be found in reports A/HRC/12/37 (paras. 5-9) and A/69/347 (paras. 3-6) and remains valid.

[1] The term "escalation in hostilities" refers to the period between 8 July and 26 August 2014, referred to by Israel as "Operation Protective Edge".

III. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 69/93

A. The increase in violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory from June to August 2014

6. The first half of the reporting period, from May to November 2014, witnessed alarming levels of violence and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. A marked deterioration in the human rights situation across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and an intensification of hostilities between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups from early June 2014 preceded an Israeli military operation launched in Gaza on 7 July, which, apart from some short ceasefires, continued until a ceasefire agreement on 26 August. Tensions, however, remained high until November 2014, particularly in Jerusalem. Those events and related human rights violations have been covered extensively in a number of reports (A/HRC/27/76 and A/HRC/28/80 and Add.1) and were the subject of the independent commission of inquiry, which reported to the Council in June 2015 (A/HRC/29/52 and A/HRC/29/CRP.4).

7. The scale of destruction, displacement and humanitarian needs in Gaza during and following the escalation of hostilities was unprecedented. According to the most recent figures compiled by the Protection Cluster,[2] 2,251 Palestinians were killed during the 51-day military operation.[3] Of those, 1,462 were civilians, including 299 women and 551 children. According to statistics received from the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 10,670 Palestinians sustained injuries during that time, including 2,070 women and 3,551 children. According to Israeli official sources, 67 Israeli soldiers and six civilians (including one child and one Thai national) were killed, while over 1,600 civilians were injured during the escalation.[4]

8. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, at the peak of the escalation, approximately 500,000 Palestinians — almost one third of the entire population of Gaza — were internally displaced.[5] Over 19,000 housing units[6] were totally destroyed or severely damaged and 150,000 units suffered damage, including 6,285 with major damage.[7] According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 281 schools and three universities were also damaged.[8] More than half the hospitals and health centres in Gaza were damaged or destroyed, which severely affected the capacity of the health sector to respond to the increased workload during and after the escalation.[9]

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[2] The mechanism coordinating humanitarian action by United Nations and non-United Nations humanitarian organizations working in the protection sector. OHCHR leads the Protection Cluster in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

[3] Data as of 31 May 2015. For methodology, see A/HRC/28/80/Add.1, para. 24.

[4] State of Israel, "The 2014 Gaza conflict (7 July-26 August 2014): factual and legal aspects", May 2015.

[5] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Gaza crisis, facts and figures", available from www.ochaopt.org/content.aspx?id=1010361.

[6] The Shelter Cluster defines a "housing unit" as a house or an apartment occupied by a group of people related to each other, forming a nuclear and/or extended family. In some cases, it may include more than one family.

[7] Shelter Cluster Palestine factsheet, May 2015, available from www.shelterpalestine.org/.

[8] UNICEF, "Gaza's children: six months after the ceasefire", 26 February 2015.

[9] Health Cluster in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, "Joint health sector assessment report", Gaza, September 2014.

9. The scale of the damage has been exacerbated by the devastation to the economy caused by the persistence of the illegal blockade by Israel and by two previous rounds of hostilities over the last eight years.[10]

10. A high number of fatalities and injuries also occurred outside the escalation of hostilities. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, during the reporting period, 51 Palestinians, including 11 children, were killed, 5,880 Palestinians, including 1,119 children, were injured by Israeli security forces in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and nine Israeli deaths were reported in the West Bank.[11] In Gaza, in addition to those killed and injured during the escalation of hostilities, 20 Palestinians were killed and 151 injured during the rest of the reporting period.

B. The situation in Gaza one year after the ceasefire

The scale of destruction

11. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza resulting from the 2014 hostilities compounded an already precarious situation, further undermining the enjoyment by the inhabitants of their economic and social rights, including the rights to housing, water and health. Due to the significant delay in reconstruction efforts and shortages in funding, approximately 100,000 Palestinians remained displaced nearly a year after the ceasefire. Most of them continued to live precariously, crowded into temporary accommodation or with host families.

12. In addition, Palestinians living in Gaza continued to struggle for access to basic services, such as electricity, clean water and health services. The destruction of water and sanitation facilities and the shelling of the only power plant in Gaza in 2014 have aggravated the electricity crisis that began with the Israeli airstrike on the power plant in 2006. According to the Palestinian Water Authority, 97 per cent of the natural water in Gaza is unfit for human consumption and 90 million litres of raw or partially-treated sewage is dumped into the Mediterranean Sea daily.

13. Only moderate progress has been made to reconstruct and rehabilitate the health facilities damaged during the escalation of hostilities. Gaza remains contaminated, with 7,000 explosive remnants of war and many unexploded bombs, tank shells and other munitions present.

Reconstruction and recovery needs

14. A series of assessments of damage and reconstruction needs indicated that the hardest-hit areas included Beit Hanoun, Shuja'iyah and eastern Khan Younis. Those initial assessments formed the basis of the national early recovery and reconstruction plan for Gaza for the period 2014-2017 (the plan), which was prepared by the Government of national consensus to plan the transition from crisis recovery to long-term development. Presented at a donor conference in Cairo, the total cost of relief, recovery and reconstruction estimated in the plan was $4 billion. The international community pledged $5.4 billion (including $2.5 billion in new

[10] World Bank, "Economic monitoring report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee", 27 May 2015.

[11] See Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Life, liberty and security", available from www.ochaopt.org/content.aspx?id=1010057.

funding), of which $3.5 billion was intended to support Gaza.[12] Less than a third of that amount had been disbursed by the end of the reporting period.

Factors hampering reconstruction and recovery efforts

15. Under the recovery and reconstruction plan, some progress has been achieved in reconstruction. Nevertheless, serious practical and political obstacles to the rapid reconstruction efforts envisaged at Cairo are exacerbating the human rights impact of the destruction. Israel has continued to impose its blockade of Gaza in violation of international law (see A/HRC/24/30, paras. 21-23), which remains the most important obstacle to sustainable recovery in the Gaza Strip and to enjoyment by its inhabitants of their economic, social and cultural rights. The severe restrictions imposed by Israel on Palestinian freedom of movement in and out of Gaza and between Gaza and the West Bank seriously undermine the enjoyment of other rights by Palestinians, in particular the rights to work, health, education, housing and an adequate standard of living, as well as their right to marry, to family life, to travel and to practise their religion.

16. As consistently documented by the Secretary-General (see A/69/347 and A/HRC/28/45), the blockade had severely damaged the economy of Gaza, even before the 2014 escalation. The unemployment rate in Gaza is the highest in the world, standing at 43 per cent.[10] According to the World Bank, the blockade has reduced the economy of Gaza to a fraction of its estimated potential. Real per capita income is 31 per cent lower than it was 20 years ago, considering that the population has increased by approximately 230 per cent during that period.[10] Restrictions on imports and exports and the transfer of goods to and from the West Bank have exacerbated the lack of economic development and have further entrenched poverty and conflict in the Gaza Strip.[13]

17. The human cost of the blockade has been enormous. The limited availability of electricity and potable water, the shortage of medical supplies, the perpetuation of reliance on food aid and the collapse of the industrial and agricultural sectors had resulted in a humanitarian crisis and a substandard quality of life even before the 2014 escalation. Food insecurity has increased significantly, from 57 per cent on 2 June 2014[14] to 73 per cent during the first quarter of 2015.[15] Psychological trauma caused by the repeated escalations of hostilities has exacerbated the crisis.

18. A range of materials, including many essential building materials, such as cement, are restricted by the Israeli blockade of Gaza. Between 27 August 2014 and 30 April 2015, only 7,500 truckloads of construction materials, mainly cement, aggregate and steel bars entered Gaza. In October 2014, the Shelter Cluster estimated that 800,000 truckloads were required to meet housing needs in Gaza

[12] Conclusions by the Chair, Cairo conference on Palestine, 12 October 2014, available from unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/79CE488FCCFD513B85257D70006E047E.

[13] See Association of International Development Agencies, "Reconstructing Gaza: five principles for transformative change", 3 October 2014.

[14] Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics and United Nations joint press statement (PCBS-FAO-UNRWA-WFP), "Food insecurity in Palestine remains high", 3 June 2014.

[15] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, annual humanitarian bulletin, March 2015.

caused by the destruction of homes in recurring escalations and a chronic housing deficit.[16]

19. The Gaza reconstruction mechanism, a temporary arrangement established under an agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli authorities brokered by the United Nations, is designed to enable the entry into Gaza of what Israel classifies as "dual use" materials[17] and of heavy machinery. "Dual use" materials include aggregate, metal bars and cement, the main construction materials. In 2015, Israel expanded the list of items classified as dual use, adding items such as timber, claiming it was used in Gaza for the construction of military tunnels.[18]

20. After a slow start, use of the reconstruction mechanism by stakeholders has increased substantially but the pace of reconstruction overall remains inadequate, partly due to limited donor funding. As of 31 May 2015, not a single fully destroyed home had been rebuilt, but approximately half the families affected by damaged homes had received construction materials under the mechanism.[19]

21. Palestinian civil society organizations have questioned whether the mechanism "institutionalizes the Israeli blockade".[20] They have also expressed concern that, since most construction materials imported into Gaza originate from Israel, the latter has benefited from the reconstruction effort that its actions necessitated.[21]

22. The reconstruction mechanism is a temporary measure, only necessary because of the blockade. Senior United Nations officials have repeatedly noted that it cannot be a substitute for the complete lifting of the blockade, but can be an important initial step towards the implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009).

Restrictions on free movement of people and goods

23. During the reporting period, Israel continued to enforce severe restrictions on movement in and out of Gaza. The Erez checkpoint remained closed to any Palestinian other than those holding specific categories of Israeli-issued permits. Throughout the reporting period, access to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem,

[16] 441 truckloads of building materials are needed daily to meet housing needs within five years, or 735 truckloads daily to meet housing needs within three years. Those figures are based on the estimated need of 100,334 housing units, including the replacement of 20,000 units destroyed or severely damaged during the escalation of hostilities in 2014 and of 5,000 units outstanding from previous military operations, and 75,334 units to reduce the large housing deficit arising from natural growth rates, based on needs in 2011. That calculation does not include public infrastructure (e.g. schools, utilities, etc.). See Shelter Cluster, "Gaza response update", 11 October 2014, available from www.shelterpalestine.org/.

[17] Material and equipment, which Israel alleges can be used for terror attacks.

[18] Lumber pieces that are 20 to 25 cm wide and more than 5 cm thick. See Gisha — Legal Center for Freedom of Movement, "COGAT decision to restrict entrance of wood to Gaza", 13 April 2015.

[19] In total, 12,620 housing units were fully destroyed and another 156,420 units suffered minor to severe damage. See Shelter Cluster factsheet, May 2015, available from shelterpalestine.org/factsheetdetails.aspx?id=10109.

[20] Palestinian NGOs Network, "Palestinian NGOs Network and human rights organizations urge U.N. Secretary-General to push for immediate lifting instead of legitimization of closure over the Gaza Strip", 15 October 2014 and Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, "Gaza under closure and rubble, UN mechanism to reconstruct Gaza fails and the only solution is lifting the closure", 11 March 2015.

[21] EurActiv, "EU source: Gaza reconstruction aid is 'made in Israel'", 3 September 2014.

to Israel and to other countries was blocked for the majority of Palestinians in Gaza.[22]

Issuance by Israel of permits to exit Gaza through Erez crossing during the reporting period (with monthly average in brackets)[a]

	May-June 2014	*July-August 2014*	*September 2014-April 2015*
No. of Palestinians crossing	11 207 (5 604)	2 715 (1 358)	85 615 (10 702)
No. of medical patients granted exit permits	5 939 (2 970)	1 499 (750)	9 973 (1 247)
No. of medical patients denied exit permits	70 (35)	90 (45)	377 (47)
No. of patients whose treatment was delayed due to lack of permit	537 (269)	450 (225)	1 930 (241)

Sources: Gisha Legal Center for Freedom of Movement and World Health Organization.

[a] Figures cover the reporting period from May 2014 to April 2015 showing the totals for the periods before, during and after the escalation. The monthly average in brackets is to facilitate comparison.

24. Those restrictions have affected a wide range of other human rights, particularly the right to health. Due to chronic shortages of drugs and the lack of adequate medical care in Gaza, especially following the escalation in 2014, Gazans requiring specialist health care are dependent on a system of referrals outside Gaza, which requires permits from the Israeli authorities. Although there was a significant decrease in approval rates of permit applications to 65 per cent during the escalation,[23] approval rates have generally remained steady throughout the reporting period at around 80 per cent. Of the remaining 20 per cent of applicants, approximately 15 per cent did not receive positive answers to their applications in time for hospital appointments, thereby suffering from a delay in care, and the remaining 5 per cent were denied permission. By comparison, in 2012, only 7.5 per cent of permit applications by patients were denied or delayed. The percentage has since increased every year.

25. On 16 February 2015, Israel increased the quotas for permits to exit through Erez for specific categories of persons: patients requiring medical treatment in Israel (but not deemed a medical emergency) from 80 to 120 per day and traders from 400 to 800 per day. While this could be seen as a positive development, the notion of quotas for medical treatment raises serious human rights concerns. Timely access to medical care ought to be based on clinical need, as determined by a medical expert, and not restricted by an arbitrary quota.

26. The effects of the restrictions on freedom of movement in and out of Gaza through Erez have been exacerbated by the severe restrictions and eventual closure of the Rafah crossing by the Egyptian authorities (see A/69/347, paras. 31-32). Rafah was closed on 24 October 2014, following a suicide attack on Egyptian

[22] See Gisha, "The Gaza cheat sheet", July 2015.

[23] See WHO monthly report on referral of patients from the Gaza Strip, April 2015, available from www.emro.who.int/pse/publications-who/monthly-referral-reports.html.

soldiers in Sinai and was open intermittently for only 15 days during the rest of the reporting period,[24] allowing 4,033 people to exit and 6,731 to enter Gaza.[25] That compares with an estimated 2,046 persons exiting Gaza through Rafah on a weekly basis before the closure.[26]

27. Restrictions on the movement of goods remain. In June 2007, Israel imposed a sweeping ban on the sale of goods from Gaza to the West Bank and Israel, where 85 per cent of exports from Gaza had been sold prior to the ban.[27] By May 2014, imports stood at 33.48 per cent and exports at 1.66 per cent of the pre-blockade level. According to the Israeli unit for coordination of government activities in the territories, 5,779 trucks entered Gaza during the hostilities in the summer of 2014 containing hundreds of tons of food and non-food items, including medicines, electrical items and items to repair water, sewage and communication networks, as well as fuel.[28] However, those supplies were inadequate owing to the chronic shortage of medical supplies and equipment, the high demand resulting from the overwhelming number of injuries and the high level of food insecurity aggravated by unprecedented numbers of internally displaced persons.[29]

28. The Government of Israel has eased some measures since the ceasefire. In November 2014, it began to allow the sale of some goods from Gaza in the West Bank, easing the seven-year ban, and in March 2015 it began allowing the sale of some Gaza-grown agricultural products in Israel for one year only.[30] Between 1 September 2014 and 30 April 2015, 43,098 trucks containing goods entered Gaza. During the same period, 443 trucks exited Gaza with exports and goods to be transferred to the West Bank. Although the increased number of trucks carrying goods in and out of Gaza since the end of the escalation of hostilities is a positive development, imports and exports nonetheless remained significantly lower than the pre-blockade level — at 43 per cent and 1 per cent respectively — far from the export potential of Gaza.

29. The closure of Rafah, Israel's blockade and the 2014 escalation all contributed to a further deterioration in the economic, humanitarian and human rights crisis in Gaza. The blockade remains a form of a collective punishment of the civilian population (see A/HRC/24/30, paras. 21-23), undermining economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights. Gross violations of such rights

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[24] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Gaza crossings operation status monthly update", May 2015.

[25] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Rafah crossing: movement of people into and out of Gaza", available from www.ochaopt.org/gazacrossing/index.aspx?id=2.

[26] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, protection of civilians weekly report, 13-19 May 2014.

[27] In March 2012, the Israeli authorities allowed an exception to the ban on the sale of goods from Gaza to the West Bank for the first time in five years. However, a broader easing of restrictions did not come until November 2014. See Gisha, "First time in 5 years: goods sold from Gaza to West Bank", available from gisha.org/updates/1759.

[28] Ministry of Defense, Operation Protective Edge, daily report on civilian assistance to Gaza, 27 August 2014.

[29] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Gaza initial rapid assessment, 27 August 2014", published on 9 September 2014 and "Occupied Palestinian Territory: Gaza emergency situation report (as of 4 September 2014)".

[30] This was done to accommodate the Jewish custom of *shmita*, which requires agricultural land to rest every seven years. See Gisha, "Exit of goods from Gaza via Kerem Shalom crossing", available from gisha.org/graph/2401.

have been among the root causes of the ongoing conflict and failures to address such violations can undermine recovery from conflict (see A/HRC/28/45, paras. 34-42). The continuing degradation of the economy in Gaza, coupled with the destruction of families, homes and livelihoods, creates despair and a recruiting ground for extremism. The stated rationale of the Israeli Government for imposing the blockade in 2007 and undertaking numerous military operations in the Gaza Strip was to protect the security of Israelis. However, those actions have directly contributed to a steady deterioration of the human rights situation in Gaza. It is difficult to see how that state of affairs addresses Israeli security concerns.

Access restricted areas

30. The Israel Defense Forces have continued to enforce a buffer zone, known as the access-restricted areas, which severely restricts access to land and sea. The access-restricted areas are enforced through various means, including the use of live fire and the destruction, damage and confiscation of property on land and at sea.[31] The exact parameters of the areas remain unclear, but the area within 300 metres of the fence between Gaza and Israel is generally considered by the local population, civil society and international organizations to be a "no-go" area and anywhere up to 1,500 metres is considered as high risk.

31. During the reporting period,[32] 4 Palestinians, including 2 children, were shot dead and 80 were injured by Israeli security forces enforcing the access-restricted areas. In one case monitored by OHCHR, on 23 November 2014 Israel Defense Force soldiers shot and killed a 32-year-old Palestinian man while he was reportedly attempting to trap birds using a net east of Jabaliya, in an area around 100 metres from the fence. Information collected by OHCHR indicates that the man was unarmed and did not pose any threat when he was shot, reportedly without warning.

32. Thirty-six of the 80 Palestinians injured in the access-restricted areas were wounded by the Israel Defense Forces during demonstrations, including 33 reportedly by live ammunition. OHCHR has serious concerns regarding the general approach of the Israel Defense Forces to demonstrations commonly held on Fridays in Jabaliya and east of Khan Younis. Those demonstrations are often attended by a large number of people, some of whom are reported to approach the separation fence and throw stones. OHCHR has documented that the Israel Defense Forces often respond with tear gas and live ammunition, even though demonstrators do not generally appear to pose a threat that might justify such use of force, particularly as they are generally separated by the main fence and often by an additional concertina razor-wire fence.

33. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, farmers indicated a high perceived risk from undertaking agricultural activities within several hundred metres of the fence after the hostilities in 2014.

34. At sea, the Israel Defense Forces enforce a 6 nautical mile fishing limit along the entire Gaza coast, with a 1.5 nautical mile "no fishing zone" along the maritime boundaries between Gazan waters and Israel in the north and Egypt in the south.

[31] OHCHR/Protection Cluster monthly update, December 2014 and January 2015, available from www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=19449.

[32] Excluding the escalation in July-August 2014, since the access-restricted areas were severely affected by the Israeli ground operation.

The vast majority of recorded incidents at sea have occurred within the six mile limit.[31]

35. The measures taken by the Israeli navy to enforce the maritime restrictions, including the use of live fire, continue to put fishermen's lives at risk and result in casualties. For instance, on 7 March 2015 a 32-year-old fisherman was shot and killed by the Israeli navy while reportedly building up his own artificial reef (to increase his fishing catch) approximately five nautical miles off the Gaza shore, west of Gaza city.[33] Israeli military sources reportedly claimed that the navy opened fire after a number of vessels had deviated from the designated fishing zone and did not halt upon request, but there was no indication that the fisherman posed any threat.

36. Israeli authorities routinely detain fishermen arbitrarily and confiscate and/or damage their fishing boats and equipment. According to the Protection Cluster, during the reporting period, 61 fishermen were detained and 14 were injured, while 25 fishing boats were confiscated and 12 were destroyed or damaged. Fishing equipment from numerous boats and fishing nets were damaged or lost as a result of attacks by the Israeli Navy.

37. Israel's enforcement of the access-restricted areas at sea continues to devastate the Palestinian fishing industry, denying fishermen access to the richest fishing areas and forcing them to fish in waters that are overfished and heavily polluted owing to the destruction of the sewage system during the escalation.[34] Damage to, or destruction or confiscation of, fishing equipment prevents fishermen from earning a livelihood. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the access-restricted areas on land account for 17 per cent of the total land mass of Gaza, meaning that 35 per cent of the available agricultural land in Gaza is unsafe for Palestinians to use. The access-restricted areas therefore have a severe impact on the right to work of fishermen and farmers alike and deprive them and their families of their right to an adequate standard of living.

38. The fishing industry was also adversely affected by the 2014 escalation. An estimated 700-800 fishermen lost their livelihoods as 16 small fishing boats were completely destroyed and 45 boats were partially damaged.[35] Fuel shortages have prevented many fishermen and farmers from working.

C. Situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

39. The following update on selected concerns in relation to the situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, should be read in conjunction with recent reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/28/80 and Add.1, A/HRC/28/44, A/HRC/28/45 and A/70/351). Those reports highlight a situation of increased violence and violations, which were

[33] The Independent, "The Gaza fisherman who built his own reef — and was shot dead there by an Israeli gunboat", 29 March 2015.

[34] Food Security Sector, "Report of the rapid qualitative assessment of the livelihood conditions of agricultural producers in the Gaza Strip", December 2014.

[35] Food Security Sector, "Report of the rapid qualitative emergency food security assessment, Gaza Strip", October 2014.

eclipsed by the Gaza escalation but still of serious concern. The situation remained volatile through to the end of 2014, especially in East Jerusalem.

40. During the reporting period, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs recorded 51 Palestinian fatalities, including 11 children, and 5,880 injuries, including 1,119 children, in incidents involving Israeli security forces. That compares to 31 Palestinian fatalities, including five children, and 2,541 injuries, including 849 children, between 16 May 2013 and 15 May 2014.

41. Twenty-seven of the fatalities recorded during the reporting period, including five children, were caused in incidents involving Israeli security forces between 1 June and 31 August 2014. At least half of those killings occurred during clashes that erupted following protests against the Gaza hostilities and restrictions on access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, while seven deaths resulted from confrontations during search and arrest operations.[36] According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, there were 10 Palestinian fatalities in the first five months of 2015 and 9 Israeli fatalities in a context of heightened tensions and violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.[37] The Israeli Security Agency (Shabak) reported to the Knesset a sharp rise in "popular resistance" incidents (for example, stone-throwing, fire bombs, car-ramming and stabbing) in the West Bank.

Threat of forcible transfer of Bedouin communities in the central West Bank

42. During the reporting period, Bedouin in the central West Bank — the vast majority of whom are refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) — have been under renewed and imminent threat of forcible transfer by the Israeli military, in violation of international law.

43. The Israeli "relocation" plans, including the Nweima, Al-Jabal and Fasayil plans, envisage the move of up to 7,000 Palestinian Bedouin to urban townships adjacent to Jericho near the Jerusalem municipal garbage dump and in the Jordan valley. That will pave the way for Israeli settlement expansion in the E1-Maale Adumim area on the periphery of Jerusalem. Additional settlements in the E1 area will further undermine the viability of a contiguous Palestinian State, Palestinian right to self-determination and prospects for peace (see A/70/351).

44. During the reporting period, the Israeli Civil Administration advanced plans for the development of Nweima township. Objections to the plan were raised by community representatives before the Administration subcommittee authorized approval of the plans. The objections, including highlighting the failure to consult with the local communities, succeeded in temporarily freezing the process. Hearings before the subcommittee were continuing at the end of the reporting period.

45. Meanwhile, preparations for the transfer of the Bedouin from Abu Nwar to the Al Jabal site have been moving ahead. The ground work to prepare the site started in early February 2015. On 11 February, the Israeli Civil Administration appointed a retired Israel Defense Force Brigadier-General to lead a "mediation" aimed at reaching a compromise with the Bedouin communities, including those at Abu

[36] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, humanitarian bulletin monthly report, June-August 2014.

[37] See also Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, protection of civilians weekly report, 26 May-1 June.

Nwar. On 28 April 2015, the mediator informed the community that they would not be allowed by the Administration to remain in their current location but would be slated for full "relocation" and that 34 families should sign up to the Al Jabal site within one month. The community have rejected the proposal and demanded either to return to their ancestral lands in the Negev, or to remain in Abu Nwar with proper services.

46. Those developments arise in the context of an already coercive environment in the West Bank, which is getting worse with the issuance of numerous stop-work and demolition orders and demolitions of residential, livelihood-related and donor-funded humanitarian structures. Following a visit to Abu Nwar village in May 2015, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Director of Operations in the West Bank for UNRWA expressed concern at possible breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention and said that the plans, if implemented, would represent a continuation of developments that had commenced in 1997, when Palestine refugees were loaded onto trucks and taken to the same urban site in Eizariya, after which an illegal settlement was constructed on their former land.

D. Accountability for human rights and humanitarian law violations

47. The 2014 escalation in hostilities mirrors previous escalations in 2008-2009 and 2012, which resulted in large-scale destruction and loss of life. Despite calls by the international community for proper accountability for international human rights and humanitarian law violations, impunity continues to prevail, both in relation to the escalations and violations outside those periods. For a detailed analysis of the escalations and the impunity for serious violations that has prevailed, see recent reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/12/48, A/HRC/22/35/Add.1, A/HRC/28/80/Add.1, A/HRC/28/45, paras. 14-17, and A/69/347, paras. 52-69).

48. Impunity for violations committed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, also remains of concern (see A/69/347, paras. 52-69). Of 62 incidents that led to Palestinian fatalities involving the Israel Defense Forces between April 2011 (when a new policy to investigate all cases of Palestinian deaths in non-combat situations was initiated by the Military Advocate General) and 31 May 2015, recorded by the Israeli organization B'tselem, only 2 have resulted in indictments. Nine cases were not investigated at all, while a further 11 were closed without indictment. The remaining cases were pending at various stages of the legal process at the end of July 2015.[38]

Impunity as a driver of conflict

49. The Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights have both repeatedly emphasized the need to ensure accountability for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law for all duty bearers, in accordance with their obligations under international law (see A/HRC/22/35, paras. 66-82, A/HRC/28/45, paras. 26-33 and A/69/347, paras. 52-69, 81 and 84). Effective accountability not only ensures that perpetrators are brought to justice, but also

[38] B'tselem, "Follow-up: military police and MAG Corps investigations of civilian Palestinian fatalities in West Bank since new policy imposed", 30 July 2015, available from www.btselem.org/accountability/military_police_investigations_followup.

ensures that victims have access to remedies and serves to deter future violations and to try to repair the harm suffered.

50. International law requires that allegations of violations are promptly, thoroughly, effectively, independently, impartially and transparently investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice. Accountability for human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law are prerequisites for creating the conditions for sustainable peace and security.

51. As the Secretary-General has stated, "The build-destroy, build-destroy cycle must be broken ... there must be accountability and I again repeat my call for accountability. Those who have committed criminal acts, those who have violated international humanitarian law must be investigated and brought to justice ... without addressing fundamental root causes there cannot be any sustainable peace and security."[39]

Israeli domestic accountability

52. In September 2014, the Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces ordered that a General Staff "mechanism for fact-finding assessments" (the mechanism) should examine "exceptional incidents" that occurred during the 2014 hostilities.[40] The mechanism was established in response to the recommendations of the Turkel Commission.[41]

53. As of 31 May 2015, Palestinian human rights organizations had documented 378 cases and submitted 236 cases to the mechanism, requesting that criminal investigations be opened.[42] According to information published on 11 June 2015, the Military Advocate General had conducted initial examinations of 126 "exceptional incidents". Seventeen cases have been closed, including two cases on the disputed claim that the complainants had failed to appear to provide testimony before the Military Police Criminal Investigations Division.[43] The mechanism has opened seven investigations following a review and the Military Advocate General has opened 13 criminal investigations without a prior examination by the fact-finding assessments mechanism.[44] The Military Advocate General, however, has issued only one criminal indictment so far, in relation to a minor case involving looting by Israeli soldiers in Shuja'iya, on 20 July 2014.[45] The remaining cases are pending a decision by the Military Advocate General.

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[39] Secretary-General's press encounter in Gaza, 14 October 2014, available from unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/4CFAB898E2F52AF685257D710051116A.

[40] Israel Defense Forces Military Advocate General's Corps (IDF MAG Corps), "Operation Protective Edge: examinations and investigation", 10 September 2014, available from www.mag.idf.il/261-6858-en/Patzar.aspx.

[41] The Turkel Commission, established to investigate the Gaza flotilla raid in May 2010, was mandated to review Israel's mechanisms for investigating alleged violations of the laws of armed conflict and made specific recommendations to strengthen those mechanisms.

[42] The Palestinian Center for Human Rights referred 76 files and the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights referred 89 files to the mechanism for review and investigation.

[43] IDF MAG Corps, "Decisions of the IDF MAG regarding exceptional incidents that allegedly occurred during Operation Protective Edge", update No. 4, 11 June 2015, available from www.law.idf.il/163-7353-en/Patzar.aspx.

[44] BBC News, "Israel orders criminal investigations into Gaza war incidents", 11 September 2014.

[45] Haaretz, "Israeli army indicts three soldiers for looting during Gaza war", 26 April 2015.

54. Palestinian organizations are in the process of collecting information in relation to an additional 150 cases that need to be filed. Notifications of intention to file civil compensation claims for loss of life and property on behalf of 1,349 Palestinians have also been submitted to the Israeli Ministry of Defence by NGOs.

55. The investigations carried out by the mechanism and reviewed by the Military Advocate General are steps towards establishing accountability for alleged victims in Gaza. However, there are three significant weaknesses. First, the mechanism and the Military Advocate General are not independent of the Israel Defense Forces. In that regard, Palestinian groups have observed that alleged victims and witnesses have not gone to Erez to provide their testimony before the Military Police Criminal Investigations Division for fear of reprisals or arrest by the Israel Defense Forces, as this routinely happens to many Palestinians passing through Erez.

56. Second, the dual role of the Military Advocate General as legal adviser and investigator creates a conflict of interest and can undermine impartiality.

57. Thirdly, the mechanism is only mandated to investigate "exceptional incidents". It is unlikely, therefore, to address all incidents that should trigger Israel's duty to investigate, such as aerial and naval strikes that appear to be disproportionate and/or indiscriminate given the high number of civilian casualties in Khuzza'a; ground operations in Beit Hanoun and Shuja'iya, where there was a possible failure to take all feasible precautions to protect civilians; shelling and bombardment in Rafah in response to the apparent capture of an Israeli soldier; and the attacks on hospitals and other civilian objects that are afforded special protection under international humanitarian law (see A/HRC/28/80/Add.1, paras. 32-63). Full accountability requires that investigations are not limited to a few incidents and that they address the failure to respect international law at the policy level.

58. The decision of the Military Advocate General on 11 June 2015 to close the investigation into the Gaza beach attack of 16 July 2014, which killed four children, highlights the inherent weakness of the mechanism and the lack of independence of the Military Advocate General. The latter failed to interview eyewitnesses in the case, including international journalists, and only invited one Gazan witness to provide an oral testimony.[46] After reviewing the testimony of Israel Defense Force soldiers, the Military Advocate General found that the professional discretion exercised by all the commanders involved in the incident had not been unreasonable, despite the fact that the identification of the children as militants from Hamas naval forces was an error.

59. Apart from the 2014 escalation in hostilities, Palestinian organizations note that two cases were filed with the Military Advocate General during the reporting period in relation to incidents of shootings by the Israel Defense Forces in the access-restricted areas. One case has been opened for investigation while there has been no response in relation to the other case. In both cases, the alleged victims were 16 years old.

60. The Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights have highlighted serious concerns regarding the lack of accountability following previous cycles of violence and escalations in Gaza and in relation to incidents in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and apart from escalations, including in the access-

[46] Al Mezan and Adalah, "Israeli investigation system is fundamentally flawed. The army cannot investigate itself", 15 June 2015, available from www.adalah.org/en/content/view/8581.

restricted areas of the Gaza Strip (see A/68/502, paras. 30-34, A/69/347, paras. 52-69, and A/HRC/25/40, paras. 50-56). Their concerns include issues both in relation to criminal accountability and access to a remedy and reparations for victims. As noted in previous reports of the Secretary-General and underlined by the Human Rights Committee, Israel has failed to meet its obligations in this regard (see also A/HRC/29/52).

Palestinian domestic accountability

61. No investigations into alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law have been conducted by the State of Palestine or by the de facto authorities in Gaza to bring alleged perpetrators to justice in relation to the escalation in the summer of 2014, including the indiscriminate firing of rockets, targeting of civilians and military operations in densely populated areas (see A/HRC/28/80/Add.1, paras. 68-72).

62. The Gaza Ministry of Interior reportedly established an investigation into the circumstances of the summary executions of alleged collaborators in Gaza during the 2014 hostilities, including a number of detainees who were allegedly taken from Katiba Prison by armed masked men and summarily executed (see A/HRC/28/80/Add.1, paras. 73 and 74). In January 2015, a Ministry spokesperson said that the executions were carried out by Palestinian resistance factions. With respect to the detainees, he denied official involvement in the executions, claiming that they had escaped from prison and were captured and executed by armed groups close to the fence after they engaged in hostilities. In a statement on 27 May 2015, Hamas similarly denied any role in the executions and claimed that the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Interior were continuing with the investigation and would publish their findings upon completion.

63. Palestinian human rights organizations have referred two cases to the Attorney General in Gaza of attacks on civilians by armed groups during the hostilities in the summer of 2014. In one case, the alleged victim sustained serious injuries resulting in the amputation of his legs. The Attorney General had not responded to the complaints by the end of the reporting period, but had reportedly referred them to the Internal Security Agency.

International accountability measures

64. The Commission of Inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1 was mandated to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, "in the context of the military operations conducted since 13 June 2014, whether before, during or after". The Commission reported to the Human Rights Council in June 2015. Its report included recommendations aimed at promoting accountability by all sides, including a call on Israel to "break with its recent lamentable track record in holding wrongdoers accountable, not only as a means to secure justice for victims but also to ensure the necessary guarantees for non-repetition" (A/HRC/29/52, para. 76).

65. An internal and independent United Nations Headquarters board of inquiry was convened by the Secretary-General on 10 November 2014 to investigate 10 incidents that had caused death or injuries, or damage to United Nations premises, or in which the presence of weaponry was reported during the escalation in July and

August 2014. The Board of Inquiry found that Israel Defense Force attacks on seven United Nations premises had killed at least 44 Palestinians, injured approximately 227 others and damaged United Nations schools used as emergency shelters during the hostilities. It also found that Palestinian armed groups had put UNRWA schools at risk by concealing weapons in three locations (see S/2015/286, annex). Releasing the public summary of the report, the Secretary-General reiterated that United Nations premises are inviolable under international law and "should be places of safety, particularly in a situation of armed conflict" (S/2015/286).

66. On 7 January 2015, the Registrar of the International Criminal Court accepted the declaration lodged by the State of Palestine for the purpose of identifying, prosecuting and judging the authors and accomplices of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 13 June 2014, and transmitted it to the Prosecutor for her consideration. The State of Palestine also acceded to the Rome Statute on 1 April 2015,[47] ensuring the jurisdiction of the Court over crimes committed on the territory of the State of Palestine, irrespective of the nationality of the alleged perpetrators, or by Palestinian nationals in any other State or territory. While it is for the Court to decide on its jurisdiction and the admissibility and merit of any potential case, its involvement can prompt improvements in domestic accountability mechanisms, in accordance with the principle of complementarity.

E. Treaty accession by the State of Palestine

67. During the reporting period, the State of Palestine became party to seven of the core international human rights treaties,[48] the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions and the Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land.

68. In accordance with the international legal obligations contained in those treaties, the State of Palestine has an obligation to protect and promote human rights to the greatest extent possible. At the same time, Israel, as the occupying Power, remains under an obligation to protect the human rights of the Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in accordance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including with respect to Israel's international treaty obligations.[49] All duty bearers should refrain from practices which violate human rights norms.

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[47] On 2 January 2015, the State of Palestine lodged an instrument of accession to the Rome Statute with the Secretary-General as depository. On 6 January, the Secretary-General issued a notification confirming the accession of the State of Palestine. The Statute entered into force with respect to the State of Palestine on 1 April 2015 in accordance with Article 126(2).

[48] International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Convention on the Rights of the Child and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The two Covenants entered into force on 2 July 2014 and the other five treaties on 2 May 2014.

[49] International Court of Justice advisory opinion, "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", paras. 102-113.

F. Conclusion

69. The cumulative effect of the Israeli-imposed blockade on the economy of Gaza, restrictions on the ability of Palestinians from Gaza to enjoy their human rights, the catastrophic impact of the 2014 hostilities on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the restrictions in the access-restricted areas and the continued lack of accountability for past violations, all serve to drive conflict and further human rights violations.

70. The complete lifting of the blockade, with due consideration for Israel's security concerns, as called for in Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), would be a first critical step that would alleviate the humanitarian crisis and place Gaza on the road to recovery. Moreover, accountability for past violations of international law is a prerequisite for any sustainable solution for peace and security. Failure to address the human rights situation and the urgent humanitarian and economic crisis in Gaza will inevitably result in another cycle of violence.

IV. Recommendations

71. **The following recommendations should be read in conjunction with the numerous recommendations contained in previous reports of the Secretary-General and of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with respect to the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, most of which remain relevant but unimplemented.**

72. **Recommendations to the Government of Israel:**

(a) **Fully lift the blockade of Gaza and end the collective punishment against the civilian population and ensure sustainable economic recovery and development. That must entail, at a minimum, allowing the free movement of Palestinians across the Occupied Palestinian Territory and ensuring that any restrictions on freedom of movement and the transfer of goods from, into and within Gaza, are consistent with international law;**

(b) **Ensure that the use of force by the Israeli security forces, including in the access-restricted areas, and in situations other than hostilities, is in compliance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, including by carrying out an independent review and any necessary revisions of rules of engagement or regulations on opening fire to ensure their consistency with international law;**

(c) **Carry out prompt, thorough, effective, independent and impartial investigations into allegations of unlawful killing or injury and ensure they are subject to public scrutiny; allow for meaningful victim participation in proceedings; and ensure that the results are made public and that those responsible for violations are brought to justice in fair trials. Victims must be provided with a prompt, adequate and effective remedy. As an initial step to reforming the investigative system, implement the recommendations contained in the second report of the Turkel Commission;**

(d) **Ensure full compliance with the prohibition of forcible transfer and annul any plans to relocate Bedouin and herder communities without their free and informed consent;**

(e) Grant access to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory for, and cooperate with, international human rights bodies and NGOs concerned with investigating alleged violations of international law by all duty bearers.

73. **Recommendation to the Government of the State of Palestine:**

Conduct prompt, thorough, effective, independent and impartial investigations into allegations of unlawful killing, injury or summary executions by security forces and any violations of international humanitarian law by Palestinian actors. Ensure that such investigations are subject to public scrutiny, allow for meaningful victim participation in proceedings and ensure that the results are made public and that those responsible are brought to justice in fair trials. Victims must be provided with a prompt, adequate and effective remedy.

74. **Recommendations to Palestinian armed groups in Gaza:**

(a) Respect international humanitarian law, especially in relation to all rules on the conduct of hostilities, in particular, the principle of distinction, which includes a prohibition on indiscriminate attacks, and ensure accountability for violations;

(b) Declare publicly that acts amounting to violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law will not be tolerated. All armed groups must remove from active duty those among their members suspected of having committed such acts.

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United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

One year into the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024 and with the Sustainable Development Goals just adopted, in particular Goal 7, on energy, 2015 provides a historical opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to strengthen their collective approach to energy. The present report describes efforts undertaken to coordinate the activities of the Decade within the United Nations system and the institutional and accountability arrangements of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, as requested in resolution 69/225. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All coordinates activities related to the Decade on behalf of the Secretary-General and has facilitated discussions related to the institutional arrangements of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The report underlines the need for enhanced international cooperation and strengthened United Nations system coherence on energy in support of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7.

* The present report was submitted late owing to the need for internal consultations.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/225, in which the Assembly noted the launch of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All as part of the first annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum and the initial two-year focus on energy for women, children and health. It further encouraged the rapid implementation of the strategic objectives defined in the global plan of action for the Decade. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a report on the activities carried out to mark the Decade, related activities within the United Nations system and the long-term institutional arrangements and accountability arrangements to all stakeholders of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative for submission to the Assembly at its seventieth session.

II. The new agenda for transformation: energy in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

2. The year 2015 offers a unique opportunity for global leaders and people around the world to end poverty and transform the world to better meet human needs and the necessities of economic transformation, while protecting the environment, ensuring peace and realizing respect for human rights. In the document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1, Member States have set out an ambitious, transformational plan of action for people, the planet, prosperity, partnerships and peace. At its core lie 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets, representing a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred universal agenda.

3. Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity and the environment, which allow the world to thrive. Energy is a core interest for all countries of the world and is inextricably linked to many of the global challenges that they face. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development fully recognizes the critical importance of energy for sustainable development by establishing a goal and targets on energy (see box). Sustainable Development Goal 7 represents a watershed in global efforts towards ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. It sets out a new global energy agenda accepted by and applicable to all, developed and developing countries alike. The Goal and targets reflect the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development through the focus on energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

4. Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 and its targets will create significant synergies and simultaneously advance many other Sustainable Development Goals, including the Goals on poverty eradication, food security, clean water and sanitation, health, education, economic growth and the empowerment of youth and women, while combating climate change. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is fundamental to human development and a necessary investment in the collective future.

5. A shift towards more efficient and renewable energy solutions is essential for addressing climate change and sustainable development challenges. Action to achieve this global energy goal must contribute to limiting the increase in the average global temperature to below 2°C in the long run. Greenhouse gas emissions from the supply and use of energy are changing the Earth's climate. Climate change threatens food and water security for hundreds of millions of people around the world.

6. The scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development require a global partnership to ensure its full implementation. Its ambition must be matched by strong political will and scaled-up action on all fronts by all stakeholders.

III. Activities and momentum in support of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All

7. Momentum is growing. In many regions and countries, the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All has played a catalytic role in fostering conversations on energy and has been recognized in explicit declarations and commitments as a political priority and framework for action.

8. To mark the second year in the Decade, the second Sustainable Energy for All Forum, on the theme "Financing sustainable energy for all", was held in May 2015, with over 1,500 leaders, including more than 30 ministers, from all stakeholder

groups gathered at Headquarters. The Forum featured the first-ever Global Energy Ministerial Dialogue and the launch of the second Global Tracking Framework and the global campaign on energy for women and children's health.

9. Member States have enhanced this momentum through a series of resolutions. The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in September 2014, produced the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (see resolution 69/15, annex) and declared that the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy, complemented by international commitments, provides a useful framework.

10. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (see resolution 69/313, annex), adopted in 2015, Member States welcomed the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative as a useful framework, including its regional hubs, and the development of action agendas and investment prospectuses at the country level. The Agenda also called for action on the recommendations of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, which had the potential to raise over $100 billion in annual investments by 2020 through market-based initiatives, partnerships and the leveraging of development banks.

11. Political recognition of the importance of energy is also growing. The ministers of energy of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum met in Beijing in 2014 and adopted the document entitled "Beijing declaration — joining hands towards sustainable energy development in the Asia-Pacific region", in which they reaffirmed the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

12. In 2015, the Group of 20 convened its first meeting of ministers of energy in Turkey and adopted the document entitled "G20 energy access action plan: voluntary collaboration on energy access", which was developed in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and its partners.

13. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative has been entrusted to work with the International Renewable Energy Agency and other partners, under the auspices of the French presidency of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris in 2015, to organize a thematic energy day in the framework of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda.

14. Stakeholders, including Governments, business, civil society and international organizations, have also played a significant role in the build-up of action and momentum in support of the Decade.

15. Such engagements have come from all regions and a myriad of platforms, including but not limited to: the Vienna Energy Forum; the Vibrant Gujarat Summit; the World Future Energy Summit held in Abu Dhabi; the Clean Energy Ministerial; the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit; the Pacific Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting held in Nadi, Fiji; the Bloomberg Future of Energy Summit held in New York; the annual meetings of the African Development Bank held in Kigali and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; the Asia Clean Energy Forum held in Manila; the twentieth Commonwealth Games, held in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the Ministerial Conference on New Partnerships for Productive Capacity-Building in the Least Developed Countries, held in Cotonou, Benin; the Regional Meeting of Sustainable Energy for All in Latin America and the

Caribbean, held in Santiago; the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna; the first Conference on Energy for Development of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries in Estoril, Portugal; World Water Week, held in Stockholm; the Meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Committees on Energy and Water Resources, held in Amman; and Regional Student Energy Summits across the world. Further activities and events are planned for 2015 in many places, including Japan and Kenya.

16. In 2015, the International Renewable Energy Conference, held in South Africa, stressed the importance of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, including the International Renewable Energy Agency as the renewable energy hub within the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the Sustainable Energy for All Africa Hub, which is hosted at the African Development Bank in partnership with the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

17. Within the United Nations system, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All has spearheaded the overall coordination and organization of the activities for the Decade, supported by UN-Energy, the wider United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, as reported in document A/68/309. The Special Representative has done so in response to resolution 68/210, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to lead the coordination of the activities of the Decade on behalf of the United Nations system, from extrabudgetary resources.

18. UN-Energy has played an instrumental role in enhancing coherence across the United Nations system around the goal and objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. In 2014, UN-Energy published a report summarizing all current and future activities by UN-Energy member organizations in support of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.[1] In 2015, UN-Energy, in cooperation with its member organizations and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, is conducting regional workshops on capacity development for mainstreaming the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators into national statistical programmes.

19. The regional commissions, together with the Government of Tunisia and in collaboration with UN-Energy, convened the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Hammamet, Tunisia, in 2014, during which the executive secretaries of the five regional commissions reiterated that the United Nations is working to help Member States to advance universal energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy in line with the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

IV. Institutional and accountability arrangements for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative

20. The Secretary-General launched the Sustainable Energy for All initiative in 2011, in response to resolution 65/151, in which the General Assembly declared

[1] Available from www.un-energy.org/publications/13123-activities-un-energy-members-for-the-decade-report.

2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. The initiative seeks to mobilize action by all stakeholders in support of a major global transformation of energy systems through the achievement of three major objectives: (a) ensuring universal access to modern energy services; (b) doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and (c) doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

21. The Secretary-General established an Advisory Board for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, co-chaired by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank Group, which includes distinguished global leaders from Governments, business and civil society. Together with the initiative's Executive Committee, the Advisory Board provides strategic advice to the initiative.[2]

22. As Member States were informed in document A/69/395 and through informal briefings,[3] the Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All has been working towards putting in place, in the course of 2015, long-term institutional structures for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, including the establishment of an international not-for-profit organization by actors external to the United Nations. Appropriate arrangements are also being made to ensure continued support within the United Nations to issues related to sustainable energy.

A. Sustainable Energy for All Partnership

23. In 2014, the Executive Committee of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative set up an internal working group composed of actors external to the United Nations system, which delivered recommendations for the long-term institutional arrangements for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative early in 2015.[4] The recommendations included the establishment, by actors external to the United Nations, of an international not-for-profit organization, the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership, and an overview of its role in facilitating the activities of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The recommendations were welcomed by the Advisory Board in May 2015.

24. To lead this not-for-profit organization, a selection committee set up by the Executive Committee and composed of actors external to the United Nations system announced on 3 September 2015 the selection of Rachel Kyte (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as its first Chief Executive Officer.

25. Multi-stakeholder partnerships external to the United Nations are currently establishing a structure for the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership, which is to be headquartered in Austria. This includes the establishment of its membership and its own governing board.

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[2] More information is available from www.se4all.org/about-us/advisory-board/ and www.se4all.org/about-us/executive-committee/.

[3] Available from www.un.org/sg/dsg/statements/index.asp?nid=615.

[4] Available from www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SE4All-AB201526.pdf.

B. United Nations system support to achieving the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative

26. The United Nations will continue to engage in activities in support of the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

27. First, the Advisory Board will continue to be co-chaired by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank Group and, in coordination with the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership, will provide overall advice to the initiative. The Government of India has generously offered to host the next Advisory Board meeting, to be held in 2016.

28. Second, the United Nations and the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership will collaborate and coordinate efforts. The terms of that collaboration will be set out in a relationship agreement to be concluded by both organizations.

29. Third, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All will spearhead the United Nations system's efforts. The Special Representative will help the Secretary-General to convene multi-stakeholder meetings, facilitate dialogues, conduct advocacy and outreach and mobilize resources in support of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.

30. On 3 September 2015, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Ms. Kyte as his Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All. The appointment of the Chief Executive Officer of the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership as the Special Representative will ensure close institutional synergies with the Partnership. These new institutional arrangements will ensure that the United Nations remains closely involved with the Sustainable Energy for All initiative while affording it the institutional room to thrive as a multi-stakeholder partnership.

31. The Special Representative will ensure that, pursuant to and in accordance with guidelines to be prepared by the Ethics Office in consultation with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, no conflicts of interest shall arise between the functions of the Special Representative and those of the Chief Executive Officer and that the two roles shall be and shall remain clearly separated. In that respect, the Special Representative shall be fully and solely accountable to the Secretary-General and represent only the Secretary-General when acting in this capacity.

32. Through the appointment of the Special Representative, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and its activities will continue to be mainstreamed in the United Nations system and its intergovernmental processes. The Special Representative will be supported substantively and logistically by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in coordination with all relevant United Nations offices, funds, programmes and agencies.

33. The multi-partner trust fund for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, administered by UNDP, will continue to support the relevant activities of the United Nations system, including those undertaken by the Special Representative with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through extrabudgetary resources.[5]

[5] Information on the multi-partner trust fund for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative is available from http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SEA00.

C. Harnessing the capacity of existing institutions: thematic and regional hubs for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative

34. In addition to the establishment of the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership and in order to effectively support and strengthen partnerships, a strong network of thematic and regional hubs for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative has been established within existing institutions. The hubs offer best practices and leadership capacities in their respective areas in order to help countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goal on energy and other relevant objectives. To date, these hubs include:

(a) An Africa hub in the African Development Bank, with the support of the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and UNDP;

(b) An Asia-Pacific hub in the Asian Development Bank, with the support of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UNDP;

(c) A Europe-Central Asia-Mediterranean hub in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development;

(d) A Latin America and the Caribbean hub in the Inter-American Development Bank, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and UNDP;

(e) A renewable energy hub in the International Renewable Energy Agency;

(f) An energy efficiency hub in the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency, with the support of the Government of Denmark, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Technical University of Denmark;

(g) An energy efficiency facilitation hub in the Energy Conservation Center of Japan;

(h) A knowledge management hub in the World Bank;

(i) A capacity-building hub in The Energy and Resources Institute.

D. Accountability arrangements

35. The accountability arrangements for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative will continue to be strengthened. First, the Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework will report on the overall progress towards the objectives of the initiative on a biennial basis. Second, progress on individual voluntary commitments to the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All will be reported regularly on the basis of the conceptual framework presented by its accountability framework. Third, the Advisory Board will continue to provide overall advice and will publicly share its deliberations. Fourth, the up-to-date status of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the initiative is made publicly available through its website. The Special Representative will continue to be the focal point for ensuring that these arrangements are facilitated effectively.

36. The Secretary-General will report on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All as requested by the General Assembly. The Special Representative will ensure that the activities under the Decade, including those related to the

Sustainable Energy for All initiative, are disseminated through such reports and through regular briefings to Member States.

37. Pursuant to the relationship agreement to be concluded between the United Nations and the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership, the Special Representative will also work to ensure that the activities of the United Nations and the Partnership are aligned with the broader objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and carried out in support of the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal on energy.

V. Accelerating actions in support of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the Decade: advocacy, stakeholder mobilization, implementation, monitoring and system-wide coordination

A. Tracking progress

38. The Sustainable Development Goal on energy in all aspects of energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy is fully attainable by 2030, as efforts to do so can build on many ongoing activities and experiences, including the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the activities of the Decade. With a concerted effort to scale up successful models, existing technologies, business models and regulatory best practices, substantial progress can be achieved. Accelerated innovation and new technologies will bring further advances. Investments for clean energy now amount to hundreds of billions of dollars annually in both developed and developing countries.

39. Yet much more remains to be done to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7. With a set of global indicators on energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy covering over 180 countries, the Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework[6] shows where progress is made and where challenges remain. The work is led by the World Bank and the International Energy Agency, supported by UN-Energy and 20 other organizations. It provides concrete inputs for the ongoing work led by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

40. With respect to energy access, there have been significant advances on access to electricity. In 2012, access to electricity rose to 85 per cent of the global population, up from 76 per cent in 1990. The number of people without access to electricity in 2012 was 1.1 billion. The rate of electrification in urban areas was 96 per cent, while in rural areas it was 72 per cent. During the period 2010-2012, an additional 222 million people around the world, mainly in urban areas, gained access to electricity for the first time, well ahead of the 138 million global population increase. India led the progress, with 55 million people in the country gaining access over that period. Challenges remain, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where the rates of access to electricity remain low, at 35 per cent and 79 per cent, respectively, in 2012.

41. Access to clean cooking solutions, by contrast, continues to fall behind population growth, leading to negligible progress overall. Overall, the global access

[6] Available from www.se4all.org/tracking-progress/.

deficit barely changed from the initial figure of 2.9 billion people, most of whom were concentrated in rural areas of Africa and Asia. The annual growth in access to non-solid fuels during the period 2010-2012 was negative, decreasing by 0.1 per cent per year, which is comparable to the rate registered during the period 2000-2010 and woefully short of the 1.7 per cent target growth rate per year required to reach universal access by 2030. This means that only 125 million additional people — mainly in urban areas — gained access for the first time to non-solid fuels, which represents a failure to keep pace with the 138 million population increase that took place over the same period.

42. On energy efficiency, progress in improving energy efficiency over the period 2010-2012 was substantial. Primary energy intensity — the global proxy for energy efficiency — improved by more than 1.7 per cent a year over the period, considerably more than it had in the period 1990-2010. Still, the rate of improvement is two thirds of the pace needed to reach the target of an average annual 2.6 per cent improvement between 2010 and 2030, which is necessary to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

43. The growth in the use of renewable energy has continued to accelerate in recent years. The share of renewable energy in the global total final energy consumption grew from 17.8 per cent in 2010 to 18.1 per cent in 2012. Modern renewables, which exclude solid biofuels used for traditional purposes, grew even more rapidly, at a rate of 4 per cent per year. To put that in context, an annual growth rate of 7.5 per cent would be required to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix with modern renewables. During the period 2010-2012, modern renewable energy power generation accounted for half of all power generation capacity additions globally. East Asia, in particular China, led this rapid increase. Declining technology costs have helped to foster growth. For example, solar photovoltaic module prices were halved between 2010 and 2012.

44. Today's investment flows of $400 billion a year in support of the Sustainable Development Goal on energy and its targets would need to triple to over $1 trillion annually to make meaningful progress towards achieving that Goal.

45. According to the International Energy Agency, a fivefold increase in capital would be needed to achieve universal access to electricity — from $9 billion of actual investment in 2010 to an annual $45 billion until 2030. For modern cooking solutions, the International Energy Agency estimates that a 44-fold increase in capital is required — from $0.1 billion in 2010 to $4.4 billion annually until 2030 — to achieve universal access to clean cooking solutions.

46. Much greater resources will be required for energy efficiency and renewable energy. To double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, a quadrupling of current energy efficiency investment is needed — from approximately $130 billion in 2012 to an annual average of $560 billion until 2030. According to the report of the International Renewable Energy Agency entitled "REmap 2030 — a renewable energy road map", annual investments in renewable energy will have to be in the order of $650 billion, or 2.5 times more than the investment volume in 2012, in order to double the share of renewables globally.

47. Significant opportunities exist to catalyse additional finance and investment. For example, the Finance Committee of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative's Advisory Board identified, in its 2015 report, four broad investment themes that

could help to mobilize $120 billion in incremental annual investment by 2020.[7] These include green-bond market development, structures that use development finance institutions' de-risking instruments to mobilize private capital, insurance products that focus on removing specific risks, and aggregation structures that focus on bundling and pooling approaches for small-scale opportunities.

48. Unlocking existing opportunities requires an investment in capacity-building and the transfer of state-of-the-art knowledge and technologies to countries with less capacity to adopt sustainable energy solutions. Access to clean technologies remains constrained by existing regulations and incentives in many places, by the technical and commercial capacity of institutions and companies, and by a shortage of relevant skills.

49. The nexus between energy and other essential areas of development, such as water, food, health and gender, also presents numerous opportunities that can be harnessed for more holistic decision-making. For example, renewable energy can be either water-efficient or water-intensive. Health gains are achieved from sustainable energy services in community health clinics through cost-effective and life-saving interventions. Street lighting may increase women's mobility by improving security. Identifying these linkages at an early stage can help to target synergies and pre-empt potential tensions.

B. Mobilizing, scaling up and accelerating actions

50. The establishment of Sustainable Development Goal 7 provides a unique opportunity to align and scale up many ongoing efforts and spark new action. Ongoing efforts undertaken within the existing frameworks, such as the Decade and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, must be brought fully into alignment with Goal 7. When taken together, they collectively provide a solid basis for an accelerated implementation of the Goal.

51. To this end, the Special Representative will lead the United Nations advocacy and outreach efforts inside and outside the United Nations system in the area of energy, including those related to the implementation, review and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 7, with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

52. All stakeholders — businesses, Governments, multilateral organizations and civil society — must take action. Each can utilize its own strengths and interests, including by improving policies and institutional capacity; supporting technological and value chain innovation; ensuring that public resources are used to maximize the flow of private investment; and stimulating end user efficiency through education and new delivery models. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative is the vehicle to bring these different stakeholders together.

53. The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All represents a global advocacy and outreach platform to enhance momentum in this area. Member States have called for the rapid implementation of the global plan of action for the Decade

[7] Available from www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SE4All-Advisory-Board-Finance-Committee-Report.pdf.

and its strategic objectives (see resolution 69/225), building on the Global Action Agenda of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

54. The Sustainable Energy for All Forum offers a multi-stakeholder, global mobilization platform for sharing lessons and mobilizing commitments to Sustainable Development Goal 7. The first Forum, held in 2014, launched the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. The second Forum, held in 2015, was convened under the overall theme "Financing sustainable energy for all" and featured the first-ever meeting of global energy ministers.

55. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative represents a global implementation framework in support of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the global plan of action for the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. Its thousands of multi-stakeholder partnerships from all regions and sectors are already catalysing major new efforts and investments towards enhancing energy access, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy on the ground. The key achievements of the initiative to date include:

(a) Action at the country level: over 100 countries, including 85 developing countries, have thus far joined the Sustainable Energy for All initiative as partners. In over 30 countries, partners are currently engaged in the development of national action agendas and investment prospectuses. The initiative's regional and thematic hubs are playing an instrumental role in this;

(b) Commitments towards universal access to modern energy services: the European Commission and individual European countries are committed in support of sustainable energy for all, including through such initiatives as the Electrification Finance Initiative, to support developing countries in their efforts to reduce energy poverty by more than half a billion people within two decades. Sustainable Energy for All has also signed an aide-memoire on cooperation with Power Africa, an initiative of the United States of America that aims to provide energy access to some 300 million people. New commitments continue to be made, while others are being scaled up;

(c) Promoting energy efficiency: at the Climate Summit, held in 2014, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative launched the global energy efficiency accelerator platform, a unique public-private platform for enhancing energy efficiency, including in appliances, buildings, district energy, industry, lighting and transportation. The platform is an important element of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda whose aim is to launch the accelerator platform as the largest global platform on energy efficiency during the Energy Day to be organized at the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in 2015 in Paris;

(d) Promoting renewable energy: the International Renewable Energy Agency has launched the Small Island Developing States Lighthouses initiative and the Africa Clean Energy Corridor Initiative, which will provide significant assistance for investments in renewable energy in these regions. The Agency, as the renewable energy hub for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, has also launched the report entitled "REmap 2030 — a renewable energy road map", a road map to doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. The REmap project is being rolled out at the country level;

(e) Catalysing investment: the Finance Committee of the initiative's Advisory Board, through work led by the Brazilian Development Bank, the Bank of

America and the World Bank, identified ways to mobilize an additional $120 billion a year by 2020 in sustainable energy investments. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development called upon all stakeholders to take action in this regard;

(f) Scaling up public and private partnerships: 50 high-impact opportunities have been identified to date. Six of these opportunities are currently being operationalized, namely clean energy mini-grids; the phasing out of gas flaring; energy and women's health; the universal adoption of clean cooking solutions; sustainable bioenergy; and the water-energy-food nexus. A framework has been developed for formalizing the scope, roles, accountabilities and monitoring and evaluation of the high-impact opportunities;

(g) Strengthening civil society networks: the Energy Access Practitioner Network, led by the United Nations Foundation, has more than 2,000 members from non-governmental organizations, private sector groups and social enterprises and delivers energy services in 170 countries.

56. The Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework is a global data monitoring system designed to support the tracking of progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 and its targets in an accountable and transparent manner. The World Bank and the International Energy Agency lead the work, supported by UN-Energy and 20 other organizations.

57. UN-Energy has continued to implement its main objectives of enhancing coherence among ongoing energy efforts and promoting common paths that accelerate the achievement of global energy goals. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All will continue to work with and be supported by UN-Energy to strengthen synergies across the system. During 2014 and 2015, UN-Energy has played a key role in coordinating the Technical Support Team's efforts to define an ambitious, stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal on energy and corresponding energy targets for the post-2015 development agenda. UN-Energy is now coordinating the efforts by international organizations to define the energy indicators that will support the Sustainable Development Goal on energy and its targets, as contained in the document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". In 2014, UN-Energy published a report summarizing all current and future activities by UN-Energy member organizations in support of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. The report seeks to further align and coordinate, in a more coherent manner, the different efforts supporting the Decade, the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development follow-up process and the post-2015 development agenda.

VI. Conclusions and the way forward

58. In signing on to Sustainable Development Goal 7, Member States have for the first time agreed on a universal goal on energy, with targets on energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy and related means of implementation. During its first four years, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative has contributed to putting in place a global framework for implementation.

59. Yet the progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 is still uneven. Efforts will need to be redoubled to strengthen dialogues, scale up partnerships and action, catalyse investment and build capacity for implementation and monitoring.

60. At present, energy dialogues are highly fragmented, and there is no truly global dialogue platform that brings together all Member States and other stakeholders in an inclusive manner. Moving forward, therefore, Member States may wish to consider the best format and forum in which global energy ministers should meet, as an inclusive, global, high-level dialogue platform on energy to track progress and shape the global discourse on action towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7.

61. To support Member States in their implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7, the United Nations system will continue to strengthen coordination, coherence and synergies in the area of energy, including through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and UN-Energy, with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/117. It covers the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law in 2015, as well as guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of the Programme of Assistance for the biennium 2016-2017 and administrative and financial implications.

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self-funded participant (1 woman) were selected for the Programme.[3] The Fellowship Programme was conducted in English in 2015.

6. The Hague Academy lectures consisted of (in chronological order): "The ethics of international litigation" (J.-P. Cot, Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea); "The expansion of international law" (General Course) (T. Treves, Professor, University of Milan, former Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea); "Forced movements of persons" (J. Ruiz de Santiago, former representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees); "United Nations accountability for human rights violations" (C. Chinkin, former Professor, London School of Economics); "The delegation of powers by international organizations" (P. J. Kuijper, Professor, University of Amsterdam); "Unconstitutional changes of government and international law" (R. Ben Achour, Judge, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights); "Treaties on nuclear non-proliferation, recent developments" (M. Asada, Professor, Kyoto University); and "International obligations" (P. d'Argent, Professor, Université de Louvain).

7. The seminars organized by the Codification Division consisted of (in chronological order): "The legacy of the United Nations II World Conference on Human Rights (1993-2015)" (A. A. Cançado Trindade, Judge, International Court of Justice, and former President, Inter-American Court of Human Rights); "Introduction to international law" (G. Nolte, Professor, Humboldt University, and Member, International Law Commission); "International human rights law" (Sir N. Rodley, Professor, University of Essex and member and former Chair, Human Rights Committee); "United Nations institutions and law making" (H. Dreifeldt Lainé, Legal Officer, Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" and "The work of the International Law Commission" (L. Caflisch, Honorary Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, and Member, International Law Commission); "International peace and security" (Sir M. Wood, Senior Fellow, Lauterpacht Centre, University of Cambridge, and Member, International Law Commission); "Law of treaties" and "State responsibility" (P. Bodeau-Livinec, Professor, Université Paris 8, Vincennes — Saint-Denis); "Moot court exercise" (J. Donoghue, Judge, International Court of Justice); "Law of the sea" (M. Telalian, Legal Adviser, Head of the Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece); "International organizations" and "International environmental law" (L. Boisson de Chazournes, Professor, Université de Genève); "International humanitarian law" and "International criminal law" (K. Riordan, Deputy Chief Judge of the Court Martial and Deputy Judge Advocate General and Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington); "International trade law" and "International investment law" (M. M. Mbengue, Professor, Université de Genève); and "Community interests in international law" (D. Stewart, Legal Officer, Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs).

[3] Nearly 600 applications were received from 114 Member States and 1 non-Member State for 20 fellowships. The fellowship participants were from the following Member States: Afghanistan, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Yemen. One participant attended from the non-Member State of Palestine. One self-funded participant from Saudi Arabia also attended the Fellowship Programme. The participants included lawyers working for various government offices (ministries of foreign affairs and justice as well as parliaments), regional organizations (African Union, League of Arab States and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) and academic institutions.

8. Study visits with briefings by senior officials were arranged for the participants at the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

B. United Nations Regional Courses in International Law

9. The United Nations Regional Courses in International Law provide high-quality training by prominent international law scholars and practitioners on a broad range of core subjects of international law as well as specific subjects of particular interest to the countries in a given region. The courses provide an important mechanism for expanding the international law training opportunities available to lawyers from developing countries, given the limited number of participants who can be accommodated in the International Law Fellowship Programme. The courses also provide participants with an opportunity to focus on contemporary issues of international law of common interest to the region, with a view to promoting greater understanding and cooperation on such issues.

1. Africa

10. The Regional Course in International Law for Africa was held at the Economic Commission for Africa in Ethiopia from 2 to 27 February 2015. A total of 31 participants (16 men and 15 women) attended the course, with 20 fellowship participants and 11 self-funded participants.[4] Additionally, one staff member (male) of the Economic Commission for Africa attended the international trade and investment law lectures as an observer.

11. The seminars for the Regional Course consisted of (in chronological order): "Introduction to international law" (S. Murphy, Professor, George Washington University Law School, and Member, International Law Commission); "Introduction to African Union law and institutions" (A. Kilangi, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Saint Augustine University of Tanzania, and President, the African Union Commission on International Law); "International trade law" (M. M. Mbengue, Professor, Université de Genève); "International organizations" and "International environmental law" (L. Boisson de Chazournes, Professor, Université de Genève); "Community interests in international law" (D. Stewart, Legal Officer, Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs); "International investment law" (J. Donoghue, Judge, International Court of Justice); "Self-determination in International Law" and "Africa and international law in the twenty-first century" (A. Yusuf, Vice-President, International Court of Justice); "Law of treaties" and "State responsibility" (S. Villalpando, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); "International human rights law" (F. Ouguergouz, Judge, African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights); "International peace and security" and "Codification and

[4] Nearly 200 applications were received from 42 Member States of the United Nations. The participants were from the following Member States: Algeria, Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The participants included lawyers working for various government offices (including ministries of foreign affairs, justice and defence, attorney general's offices as well as parliaments), regional organizations (including the African Union and the League of Arab States) and academic institutions.

progressive development of international law: the work of the International Law Commission" (D. Tladi, Professor, University of Pretoria, and Member, International Law Commission); "International humanitarian law" and "International criminal law" (K. Riordan, Deputy Chief Judge of the Court Martial and Deputy Judge Advocate General and Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington); "Law of the sea" (T. Treves, Professor, University of Milan, and former Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea); and "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" (B. Daly, Deputy Secretary-General and Principal Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration).

12. A study visit was organized to the African Union in Addis Ababa. In addition, one of the lectures was conducted at the Law Faculty of Addis Ababa University.

2. Asia-Pacific

13. No Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific was scheduled in 2015 because of insufficient funding.

3. Latin America and the Caribbean

14. No Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean was scheduled in 2015 because of insufficient funding.

4. Permanent venues for the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law

15. Following the increase in the demand for international law training, the Codification Division considered identifying permanent venues for the Regional Courses in International Law in order to facilitate the organization of these courses on a regular basis in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. These permanent venues would provide enhanced efficiency, cost savings and greater certainty with respect to the Regional Courses without precluding the possibility of holding such a course at another location.

16. Five Regional Courses in International Law for Africa were successfully conducted annually in Ethiopia from 2011 to 2015. Ethiopia has concluded the necessary host country agreement and would provide a suitable venue for the Regional Course for Africa.

17. Three Regional Courses in International Law for Asia-Pacific were successfully conducted in Thailand in 1986, 2005 and 2012. The Regional Courses that were planned for 2013 and 2014 were cancelled because of insufficient funding. Thailand would provide a suitable venue for the Regional Course for Asia-Pacific following the conclusion of the host country agreement for this course.

18. The Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean scheduled to take place in Uruguay in 2014 was cancelled because of insufficient funding. In June 2015, the Codification Division conducted a successful planning mission in Montevideo for the Regional Course to be held in 2016 provided there is sufficient funding. Uruguay has concluded the necessary host country agreement. Uruguay would provide a suitable venue for the Regional Course for Latin America and the Caribbean. Costa Rica may also provide a suitable venue for the Regional Course following the conclusion of the necessary host country agreement.

C. United Nations International Law Seminar for Arab States

19. The United Nations International Law Seminar for Arab States is organized by the Codification Division, in cooperation with the Government of Egypt and the League of Arab States. The seminar was brought to the attention of the Advisory Committee at the informal briefing convened by the Chair on 30 April 2015. The Codification Division conducted a successful planning mission for the seminar in Cairo in June 2015. Egypt has concluded the necessary host country agreement. The seminar is scheduled to take place in Egypt from 15 to 19 November 2015. The seminar will provide high-quality training by prominent international law scholars and practitioners on some core subjects of international law, as well as specific subjects of particular interest to the countries concerned. The seminar will also provide participants with an opportunity to focus on contemporary issues of international law of common interest to the countries concerned, with a view to promoting greater understanding and cooperation on such issues.

20. The courses for the United Nations International Law Seminar for Arab States will consist of (in chronological order): "The importance of international law for Arab States" and "Self-determination in International Law" (A. Yusuf, Vice-President, International Court of Justice); "International law" (S. Murphy, Professor, George Washington University Law School, Member of the International Law Commission); "International human rights law" (Sir N. Rodley, Professor, University of Essex and member and former Chair, Human Rights Committee); and "International humanitarian law" and "International criminal law" (K. Riordan, Chief Judge of the Court Martial and Judge Advocate General and Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington). In addition, the following briefings will be organized: "Introduction to the Work of the International Law Commission" and "Introduction to the League of Arab States" (H. Hassouna, Ambassador, Member of the International Law Commission); and "Crimes against humanity" (S. Murphy).

21. The seminar is funded by voluntary contributions from the countries concerned.

D. African Institute of International Law

22. The African Institute of International Law promotes teaching, dissemination and advanced research in international law, the law of the African Union and other regional organizations; provides capacity-building for faculties of law in African universities by strengthening their research and teaching capabilities in the field of international law; and serves as a think tank for African continental and regional organizations in the field of international law. Pursuant to resolution 69/117, the Codification Division continued to cooperate with and provide guidance, upon request, to the African Institute of International Law, in Arusha, with respect to building its research library for African scholars and practitioners as well as its training seminars on specific topics of international law and African Union law for government officials and practitioners.[5] In this regard, the Secretary of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance attended the inauguration of the Institute, held at the Arusha International Conference Centre on 16 February 2015,

[5] For more information on the African Institute of International Law and its training seminars, see www.aiil-iadi.org.

to launch its first training course on "Bilateral Investment Treaties and Arbitration". This training course was planned and organized with guidance provided by the Codification Division.

E. United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

23. Traditional training courses offer unique advantages in terms of promoting in depth discussions, interaction and cooperation among participants. In response to the increasing demand for international law training that could not be met solely by its traditional training courses, the Codification Division created the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law in 2008. The Audiovisual Library gives the United Nations the capacity to provide, at a relatively low cost, high-quality training to an unlimited number of individuals and institutions around the world free of charge through the Internet.

24. The Audiovisual Library is a virtual training and research centre with more than 300 leading international law scholars, judges and practitioners from different countries and legal systems who contribute to its three pillars: the Lecture Series, the Historic Archives and the Research Library. The Lecture Series contains almost 400 lectures accompanied by lists of related materials linking to reference documents available online. The Lecture Series contains individual lectures on a broad range of specific topics of international law, as well as series of lectures on core topics of international law. These series of lectures and related legal materials are intended to provide a more comprehensive educational resource for academic institutions and government training centres in developing countries. The Historic Archives contains introductory notes by leading authorities, as well as procedural histories, related documents and archival audiovisual materials prepared by the Codification Division on almost 100 legal instruments.[6] The Research Library provides an extensive online library consisting of treaties, jurisprudence, publications, documents, scholarly writings and training materials.

25. Since its creation in 2008, the Audiovisual Library has been accessed by more than 1.3 million users in 193 Member States and non-Member States. The Audiovisual Library was created primarily for the benefit of lawyers in developing countries.[7] However, it continues to be accessed primarily by lawyers in developed countries. The limited number of users in developing countries is due to a lack of awareness of this resource and to the technology gap in terms of limited access to computers, electricity and reliable high-speed Internet. The Division is currently exploring the possibility of making the lectures in the Lecture Series available as podcasts or in another downloadable format in order to make them more accessible to users who experience problems streaming them in developing countries. The Codification Division is also continuing to explore the possibility of making lectures available on DVDs to law schools or institutions in developing countries, upon request, depending on available resources.

26. In an effort to promote greater awareness of the Audiovisual Library, the Codification Division gave presentations on the Audiovisual Library at the Regional

[6] Translations of legal materials for the Historic Archives and the Lecture Series are provided in all official languages of the Organization.

[7] The Audiovisual Library has been accessed by about 95,000 users in Africa, 330,000 in Asia-Pacific and 73,000 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Course in International Law in Ethiopia and the International Law Fellowship Programme in the Netherlands.

F. International law training materials

27. The Codification Division researches, collects and prepares legal materials in hard copy, in consultation with the lecturers, for its international law training courses.[8] In addition, CD-ROMs and USB flash drives containing the training materials and legal publications of the Division as well as other international law materials are provided to facilitate electronic research for participants in developing countries with limited access to the Internet. The training materials are also made available on the websites of the respective training courses and on the website of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law. The Codification Division is currently preparing a handbook on international law in English and French containing a collection of legal materials for its training courses for distribution to academic institutions and government training centres in developing countries. It is also exploring the possibility of cooperating with universities and enlisting the assistance of interns and research assistants for the preparation of the handbook in other official languages.

G. Desktop publishing

28. In 2003, the Codification Division began using desktop publishing, on a voluntary basis and subject to available resources, to expedite the issuance of some of its legal publications and to make them available to the international legal community in a timely manner. By 2013, the Codification Division had successfully eliminated the backlog of up to five years for several of its publications.[9] In 2014, the Codification Division discontinued its desktop publishing because of a lack of resources (necessary materials and staff) following the abolition of a General Service post that year. Consequently, none of the publications listed in paragraph 41 of A/68/521 has been issued in 2014 or 2015. In its resolution 69/117, the General Assembly expressed its appreciation for the desktop publishing initiative of the Codification Division from 2003 to 2013, which greatly enhanced the timely issuance of its legal publications, and recommended that the necessary resources be made available to resume this successful initiative.[10] The Codification Division will continue to explore the possibility of resuming its desktop publishing for one or more of its publications, depending on resources.

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[8] In 2015, the Codification Division prepared training materials for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the Regional Course in International Law for Africa. It wishes to express its appreciation to the American Society of International Law, Hart Publishing, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Kluwer Law International and Oxford University Press for the use of scholarly writings for academic purposes as part of the training materials provided to the participants in the courses.

[9] The backlog was eliminated for the following publications: *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*; *United Nations Legislative Series*; *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice*; *Reports of International Arbitral Awards*; and *The Work of the International Law Commission* (vols. 1 and 2).

[10] See also General Assembly resolutions 64/113 of 16 December 2009, 65/25 of 6 December 2010, 66/97 of 9 December 2011, 67/91 of 14 December 2012 and 68/110 of 16 December 2013.

H. Dissemination

29. The dissemination of legal publications and information through the Internet and other electronic media is intended to supplement the limited number of hard copies, without prejudice to the unique value of printed materials for legal research and education, in particular for lawyers in developing countries with limited access to the Internet. These materials are provided free of charge on the Internet to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law (see annex).

I. Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea[11]

30. The 2015 Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea was awarded in January 2015 to a candidate from the Solomon Islands, with funding provided by voluntary contributions. The cost of this fellowship is expected to be approximately $51,200 (including programme support costs and a mandatory reserve). The final cost of each fellowship depends on several highly variable factors, including the stipend rates applicable in the cities of the host institutions, currency exchange rates, airfares and the duration of the fellowships. This leads to differences in fellowship costs from year to year, which can range from approximately $50,000 to $70,000.

III. Guidelines and recommendations regarding the implementation of the Programme of Assistance for the biennium 2016-2017

31. The Codification Division plans to carry out the activities indicated below during the biennium 2016-2017.

International Law Fellowship Programme

32. *International Law Fellowship Programme*: for a period of six weeks for a minimum of 20 fellowship participants in The Hague, beginning in June 2016 and 2017. One additional self-funded participant may also be accommodated. The Codification Division would continue to perform all tasks relating to the

[11] The administrative assistance initially provided by the Codification Division in the 1980s and early 1990s gradually decreased following the establishment of a permanent institution within the Office of Legal Affairs, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, which is entrusted with matters related to the law of the sea, including technical capacity-building, to avoid duplication of work and to ensure the proper administration of this fellowship. In recent years, this fellowship has been administered solely by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea as part of its provision of technical capacity-building with respect to the law of the sea. Additional information on the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship will be provided in the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, which will be considered under the agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

organization and administration of the Fellowship Programme as long as it has the necessary resources.[12]

33. In 2016, the seminars organized by the Codification Division would consist of the following (in alphabetical order by lecturer): "State responsibility" (P. Bodeau-Livinec, Professor, Université Paris 8, Vincennes — Saint-Denis); "International environmental law" and "International organizations" (L. Boisson de Chazournes, Professor, Université de Genève); "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" (O. Corten, Professor, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Director of the Centre for International Law and Sociology Applied to International Law); "Law of the sea" (J.-P. Cot, Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea); "Introduction to international law" and "The work of the International Law Commission" (M. Forteau, Professor, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, and Member, International Law Commission); "International criminal law" (O. de Frouville, Professor, Université Paris 2 — Panthéon-Assas, Director of the Centre of Research on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law); "International peace and security" (M. Kohen, Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies); "International trade law" and "International investment law" (M. M. Mbengue, Professor, Université de Genève); "International humanitarian law" (M. Sassoli, Professor, Université de Genève, Director of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization); "International human rights law" (L.-A. Sicilianos, Judge, European Court of Human Rights); and "Law of treaties" (S. Villalpando, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs).

United Nations Regional Courses in International Law

34. *Regional Course in International Law for Africa*: for a period of four weeks for a minimum of 20 fellowship participants in Ethiopia in February 2016 and 2017. Additional fellowships may be awarded based on voluntary contributions. Self-funded participants may also be accommodated.

35. In 2016, the seminars organized by the Codification Division would consist of (in alphabetical order by lecturer): "International organizations" and "International environmental law" (L. Boisson de Chazournes, Professor, Université de Genève); "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" (B. Daly, Deputy Secretary-General and Principal Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration); "International investment law" (J. Donoghue, Judge, International Court of Justice); "International trade law" and "African Union law and institutions" (M. M. Mbengue, Professor, Université de Genève); "Introduction to international law" (G. Nolte, Professor, Humboldt University, and Member, International Law Commission); "Law of the sea" (N. Oral, Professor, Istanbul Bilgi University, Faculty of Law); "International human rights law" (F. Ouguergouz, Judge, African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights); "International humanitarian law" and "International criminal law" (K. Riordan, Chief Judge of the Court Martial and Judge Advocate General and Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington); "The work of the International Law Commission" and "International peace and security" (D. Tladi, Professor, University of Pretoria, and Member, International Law Commission); "Law of treaties" and "State responsibility" (S. Villalpando, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of

[12] Since 2010, the Codification Division has conducted the Fellowship Programme in The Hague as a necessary cost-saving measure to increase the number of fellowships provided by the regular budget (see A/65/514, para. 12).

Legal Affairs); and "Self-determination in international law" and "Africa and international law in the twenty-first century" (A. Yusuf, Vice-President, International Court of Justice).

36. *Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific*: for a period of four weeks for a minimum of 20 fellowship participants in Thailand in November 2016 and 2017. Additional fellowships may be awarded based on voluntary contributions. Self-funded participants may also be accommodated.

37. In 2016, the seminars organized by the Codification Division would consist of (in alphabetical order by lecturer): "International environmental law" (L. Boisson de Chazournes, Professor, Université de Genève); "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" (B. Daly, Deputy Secretary-General and Principal Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration); "International trade law" and "International investment law" (M. M. Mbengue, Professor, Université de Genève); "International human rights law" (V. Muntarbhorn, Professor, Chulalongkorn University); "Law of the sea" and "The work of the International Law Commission" (S. Murphy, Professor, George Washington University Law School, Member of the International Law Commission); "The importance of international law for Asia-Pacific in the twenty-first century" and "Human security" (H. Owada, Judge, International Court of Justice); "Introduction to international law" (A. Pellet, Emeritus Professor, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, and former Member, International Law Commission); "International humanitarian law" and "International criminal law" (K. Riordan, Chief Judge of the Court Martial and Judge Advocate General and Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington); "Law of treaties", "State responsibility" and "International organizations" (S. Villalpando, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs); and "International peace and security" (Sir M. Wood, Senior Fellow, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge, and Member, International Law Commission).

38. *Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean*: for a period of four weeks for a minimum of 20 fellowship participants in Uruguay in April 2016 and 2017, or possibly in Costa Rica in 2017, subject to the conclusion of a host country agreement. Additional fellowships may be awarded based on voluntary contributions. Self-funded participants may also be accommodated.

39. In 2016, the seminars organized by the Codification Division would consist of (in alphabetical order by lecturer): "International environmental law and international watercourses" (L. Boisson de Chazournes, Professor, Université de Genève); "Peaceful settlement of international disputes" (L. Caflisch, Honorary Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, and Member, International Law Commission); "The contribution of Latin American doctrine to the development of international law" and "International human rights law" (A. A. Cançado Trindade, Judge, International Court of Justice, and former President, Inter-American Court of Human Rights); "International peace and security" (M. Kohen, Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies); "International trade law" and "International investment law" (M. M. Mbengue, Professor, Université de Genève); "Introduction to international law" (M. Pinto, Professor and Dean, University of Buenos Aires Law School); "The work of the International Law Commission" and "Introduction to the law and institutions of the Organization of American States" (M. Vasquez-Bermudez, Ambassador and Alternate Representative of Ecuador to the Organization of

American States and Member, International Law Commission); "International humanitarian law" and "International criminal law" (K. Riordan, Chief Judge of the Court Martial and Judge Advocate General and Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington); "Law of the sea" (T. Treves, Professor, University of Milan, and former Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea); and "Law of treaties", "State responsibility" and "International organizations" (S. Villalpando, Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs).

United Nations International Law Seminar for Arab States

40. The Codification Division plans to continue to cooperate with the host country, Egypt, and the League of Arab States in conducting a two-week seminar in Egypt in September 2016 and 2017, subject to funding provided by the countries concerned.

African Institute of International Law

41. The Codification Division plans to continue to cooperate with and provide guidance, upon request, to the African Institute of International Law with respect to building its research library, its training courses and capacity-building for faculties of law in African universities. The African Institute has decided to concentrate its training courses, to be conducted in English or French, on the following specialized areas: (a) negotiation and conclusion of bilateral investment treaties and arbitration; (b) territorial, maritime, river and lake delimitation; (c) African Union law and regional organizations law; (d) negotiation and conclusion of natural resources contracts in the extractive sector; (e) human rights law training for the judiciary and senior lawyers in Africa; (f) international criminal law and Africa; (g) international litigation; (h) international dispute settlement mechanisms and procedures; and (i) drafting international agreements and contracts. The African Institute also plans to conduct an international law seminar in Ghana for teachers from African universities to promote capacity-building throughout the region.

42. Guidelines contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions would be followed, in particular regarding the desirability of using, as far as possible, the resources (financial and in-kind) and facilities made available by Member States, international and regional organizations, academic institutions, individuals and others, and taking into account the need, in appointing highly qualified lecturers for the fellowship programmes, to ensure representation of the major legal systems and balance among various geographical regions, bearing in mind financial constraints. The Codification Division would continue to invite prominent international law scholars and practitioners from different regions and legal systems to participate as lecturers, and include a broad range of core subjects of international law in the standard curriculum for its training courses, in order to maintain the highest standards of academic excellence and the unique practical value of the training courses, a multicultural educational experience from the perspective of different regions and legal systems, and the most comprehensive international law training possible, given the limited duration of the courses, for the benefit of all participants in the various training courses.

United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

43. The Codification Division plans to continue and further develop the Audiovisual Library. The Codification Division would continue to record new lectures for the Lecture Series in New York and off-site in various countries. DVDs of lectures may be provided, upon request, to academic institutions or government training centres in developing countries. The Division would endeavour to make the lectures in the Lecture Series available as podcasts or in another downloadable format in order to make them more accessible to users who do not have reliable high-speed access to the Internet, particularly in developing countries. The Division would also prepare new legal and audiovisual materials for legal instruments for the Historic Archives, and add new legal materials to the Research Library. It would also submit the new legal materials for the Historic Archives and the Lecture Series for translation in all official languages of the Organization (400 pages in total). Presentations on the Audiovisual Library would be prepared and given in various countries to increase dissemination, particularly among lawyers in developing countries. Storage space for audiovisual materials may need to be acquired.

International law training materials

44. The Codification Division plans to continue to research, collect and prepare legal materials in electronic and hard copy for its international law training courses. The Codification Division also plans to prepare a handbook on international law containing legal materials for its training courses and for distribution to academic institutions and government training centres in developing countries.[13]

Desktop publishing

45. In 2016-2017, the Codification Division would continue to explore the possibility of resuming its desktop publishing for one or more of the following publications, depending on available resources:

(a) *United Nations Juridical Yearbook 2014*, *2015* and *2016* (520 pages per edition), pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 1814 (XVII) and 3006 (XXVII);[14]

(b) *United Nations Juridical Yearbook: Special Edition* containing select legal opinions (600 pages), pursuant to resolution 69/117;[15]

(c) *United Nations Legislative Series, Materials on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts* (2nd ed.), vol. 27 (600 pages), pursuant to resolution 69/117;[16]

[13] See resolution 69/117, para. 10, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the Programme of Assistance (A/68/521), para. 42 (b) (original English and French).

[14] Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

[15] See resolution 69/117, para. 10, and A/68/521, para. 42 (a). This Special Edition will contain legal opinions with a continuing legal or historic significance that have not been published previously in the *Juridical Yearbook*. The legal opinions will also be made available on a website to facilitate electronic research and promote broader dissemination.

[16] See resolution 69/117, para. 11 (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

(d) *Reports of International Arbitral Awards*, vol. XXXI and vol. XXXII (600 pages), pursuant to resolutions 487 (V), 69/117 and 69/118;[17]

(e) *Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice* (2013-2017) (advance translations of 400 pages), pursuant to resolutions 46/50, 69/117 and 69/118;[18] and

(f) *The Work of the International Law Commission* (9th ed.) pursuant to resolution 69/118.[19]

All publications would include CD-ROMs or flash drives.

Dissemination

46. The Codification Division would continue to disseminate legal publications and information through the Internet. It would also distribute hard copies of its legal publications and training materials for participants in its training courses and to institutions in developing countries, upon request, provided it has the necessary hard copies as well as the resources to cover handling and shipping.

Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship

47. The current fund balance is $17,540, which is not sufficient to award a fellowship for 2016 unless the necessary voluntary contributions are received by November 2015. The difficult financial situation would give rise to the question of funding the award from the programme budget, pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 69/117 and paragraph 37 of resolution 69/245.

IV. Administrative and financial implications of the Programme of Assistance

A. During 2015

48. Concerning the funding provided for the Programme of Assistance, a total of $452,900 was included in the regular budget under section 8, Legal affairs, subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law (grants and contributions), of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the Regional Courses in International Law.

49. Since the previous report, voluntary contributions have been received for the following activities under the Programme of Assistance: (a) for the Audiovisual Library from China ($10,000), the Czech Republic ($2,200), Finland ($23,391), Ireland ($2,500), Italy ($5,000), the Netherlands ($30,868), New Zealand ($10,000),

[17] See resolution 487 (V), para. 3, and the report of the International Law Commission to the General Assembly, 1950 (A/1316), para. 91. See also resolution 69/117, para. 10, A/68/521, para. 41 (c), resolution 69/118, para. 26, and the report of the International Law Commission to the General Assembly (A/69/10), para. 282 (Bilingual publication, English/French).

[18] See resolutions 46/50, para. 5, and 69/117, para. 11, as well as A/68/521, para. 41 (d), resolution 69/118, para. 26, and A/69/10, para. 282 (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

[19] See resolution 69/118, para. 26, and A/69/10, para. 282 (English and French).

Norway ($77,742), Poland ($5,000), Switzerland ($25,000) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ($14,215); (b) for the International Law Fellowship Programme from Ireland ($1,500); (c) for the Regional Course for Africa from China ($10,000), Finland ($20,000), Germany ($95,371), New Zealand ($8,470) and the African Union ($30,000); for the Regional Course for Asia-Pacific from China ($10,000); and for the Regional Course for Latin America and the Caribbean from Chile ($10,000); (d) for any of the above-mentioned activities from Panama ($1,500); and (e) for the International Law Seminar for Arab States from Saudi Arabia ($5,000) and the United Arab Emirates ($10,000).[20]

50. With regard to the International Law Fellowship Programme, the Registry of the International Court of Justice provided office equipment for staff of the Codification Division and lecturers, as well as essential administrative and logistical support for the Programme. The Hague Academy of International Law provided a reduced tuition rate for the fellows. The Carnegie Foundation provided a seminar room and offices, as well as related equipment, for staff of the Codification Division.

51. Concerning the Regional Course in International Law for Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa provided a seminar room, offices, equipment and administrative assistance as well as transportation for lecturers, participants and Codification Division staff. The African Union organized a study visit to its headquarters. The Permanent Court of Arbitration covered the travel costs of its Deputy Secretary-General, B. W. Daly, who taught the course on "Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes". New Zealand covered the travel cost for one of the lecturers who taught at the Regional Course. The United Kingdom covered the shipping costs for one publication.

52. In addition, publications (electronic and/or hard copy) were provided free of charge to the participants in the various training courses by the following: the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand. Various entities, publishers and law journals granted permission to include scholarly articles free of charge in the study materials provided to the participants in the training courses (see para. 27 above).

Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Fellowship on the Law of the Sea

53. Since the previous report, the following countries have made contributions for the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Fellowship on the Law of the Sea: Ireland ($1,500), Monaco ($11,735) and Nigeria ($9,975).

B. During 2016-2017

54. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/117, additional resources have been proposed in the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 under section 8, Legal affairs, subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, for the Regional Courses in International Law ($1,288,900) and

[20] Qatar and Saudi Arabia have also designated previous voluntary contributions in the amounts of $5,000 and $10,000, respectively, for the seminar.

the Audiovisual Library of International Law ($524,600).[21] The total resource requirements for the biennium 2016-2017, inclusive of the International Law Fellowship Programme, amount to $2,266,400.

1. International Law Fellowship Programme and United Nations Regional Courses on International Law

55. The resources proposed in the programme budget for the biennium would provide for the International Law Fellowship Programme as well as the three United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean to be conducted each year during the biennium 2016-2017 in accordance with resolution 69/117. The resources would provide fellowships (covering travel, accommodation, health insurance, study materials and a stipend for living expenses) for a minimum of 20 lawyers from developing countries and countries with emerging economies to attend the training courses. Any additional participants would receive fellowships based on voluntary contributions or would be admitted on a self-funded basis.

2. United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

56. The resources proposed in the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 would provide for the two full-time general temporary assistance positions (one P-3 Legal Officer and one General Service (Other level) Video Editing Assistant) required to ensure the continuation and further development of the Lecture Series of the Audiovisual Library of International Law.

57. The proposed budget would also be used for the travel of staff to conduct off-site recordings of numerous lectures at various locations around the world. Such recordings are undertaken to promote broader geographical and linguistic representation of the recorded lectures and to record lecturers who are unable to travel to New York to record due to advanced age, health reasons or financial constraints.

58. In addition, the proposed resources would be used to obtain the necessary technical supplies and materials, as well as for digitization of some historical audio and film recordings.

59. Extrabudgetary resources would be utilized to develop the Historic Archives of the Audiovisual Library (including staff and digitization of additional audiovisual materials).

60. The Secretary-General would continue, if the General Assembly so decides, to request voluntary and in-kind contributions to the Programme of Assistance, in particular to provide for additional fellowships for the Regional Courses in International Law and the Audiovisual Library of International Law.

[21] A/70/6 (Sect. 8), paras. 8.10, 8.19 and 8.61.

V. Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

A. Membership

61. The General Assembly, by its resolution 66/97, appointed the following 25 Member States as members of the Advisory Committee for the period from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2015: Argentina, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

62. It is noted that the current membership of the Advisory Committee expires on 31 December 2015. At its seventieth session, the General Assembly will appoint 25 Member States, including 6 African States, 5 Asia-Pacific States, 3 Eastern European States, 5 Latin American and Caribbean States and 6 Western European and other States, to serve as members of the Advisory Committee for a period of four years, from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019.

B. Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General by the Advisory Committee at its fiftieth session

63. The fiftieth session of the Advisory Committee, held on 13 October 2015, was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Ghana, Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee.

64. Virginia Morris, Principal Legal Officer, Codification Division, acted as Secretary of the Advisory Committee.

65. The following members of the Committee were present on 13 October: Argentina, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America. Costa Rica, the Netherlands and Thailand attended the meeting as observers in their capacity as host countries for the training courses.

66. The Secretary of the Advisory Committee made a statement in which she updated the information contained in the draft report and explained the activities planned to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Programme of Assistance.

67. The Advisory Committee commended the Codification Division on its efforts to strengthen and expand the teaching and dissemination of international law under the Programme of Assistance.

68. The Advisory Committee noted with appreciation the major contribution of the Programme of Assistance to the teaching and dissemination of international law for the benefit of lawyers in all countries, legal systems and regions of the world over the past half century and emphasized the importance of ensuring the successful continuation of the Programme for the benefit of present and future generations of lawyers.

69. The Advisory Committee recommended that the draft resolution on the agenda item be adopted during International Law Week to highlight the important contribution of the Programme of Assistance to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. The Advisory Committee also noted with appreciation the proposals of the Codification Division to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Programme, including the handbook on international law containing international legal materials to promote the teaching of international law, the flash drive containing an extensive collection of international law materials to promote the dissemination of international law and the presentation of the Audiovisual Library of International Law during the consideration of the agenda item in the Sixth Committee to promote the teaching, research and dissemination of international law.

70. The Advisory Committee recommended the approval of the guidelines and recommendations contained in section III of the present report, in particular those designed to strengthen and revitalize the Programme of Assistance in response to the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities. The Advisory Committee also recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to carry out the activities specified in the present report in 2016 and in 2017.

71. In this regard, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to carry out the following activities, to be financed from provisions in the regular budget and included by the Secretary-General under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, pursuant to resolution 69/117,[22] as well as, when necessary, from voluntary contributions:

(a) The International Law Fellowship Programme, with a minimum of 20 fellowships financed from provisions in the regular budget, as well as 1 additional self-funded participant;

(b) The United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016 and in 2017, with a minimum of 20 fellowships for each course financed from provisions in the regular budget, as well as self-funded participants and additional fellowships financed from voluntary contributions;

(c) The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, with its continuation and further development financed from provisions in the regular budget as well as, when necessary, from voluntary contributions.

72. The Advisory Committee also recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2016 and in 2017 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea.

73. The Advisory Committee noted with concern that the Regional Courses in International Law for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean were not held in 2014 and in 2015 due to insufficient funding. The Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General had included the necessary additional resources under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 69/117.[23] The Advisory Committee also noted that the

[22] A/70/6 (Sect. 8), para. 8.61.

[23] Ibid.

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposal.[24]

74. The Advisory Committee noted with concern that the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea was not awarded in 2014 due to insufficient funding. The Advisory Committee recalled paragraph 8 of resolution 69/117 and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit, under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, for the General Assembly's consideration, a proposal for the necessary funding for the Memorial Fellowship should voluntary contributions be insufficient for granting at least one fellowship a year. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee noted that the current fund balance was not sufficient to award such a fellowship in 2016 unless the necessary voluntary contributions were received by the end of 2015.

[24] A/70/7, para. III.34.

Annex

Websites maintained by the Codification Division

Website	*Uniform resource locator*
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law	www.un.org/law/programmeofassistance/
International Law Fellowship Programme	www.un.org/law/ilfp/
United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean	www.un.org/law/rcil/
United Nations International Law Seminar for Arab States	legal.un.org/poa/seminar.html
United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law	www.un.org/law/avl/
United Nations legal publications portal	www.un.org/law/UNlegalpublications/
Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs	www.un.org/law/repertory/
United Nations Juridical Yearbook	www.un.org/law/UNJuridicalYearbook/
Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice	www.un.org/law/ICJsummaries/
Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the Permanent Court of International Justice	legal.un.org/PCIJsummaries/
Reports of International Arbitral Awards	www.un.org/law/riaa/
United Nations Legislative Series	legal.un.org/legislativeseries/
Codification and Progressive Development of International Law	www.un.org/law/lindex.htm
Sixth Committee of the General Assembly	www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/
International Law Commission	legal.un.org/ilc
Diplomatic conferences (official records of proceedings)	legal.un.org/diplomaticconferences/
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	www.un.org/law/icc/
Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	www.un.org/law/chartercomm/

Website	*Uniform resource locator*
Ad Hoc Committee on Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission	www.un.org/law/criminalaccountability/
Ad Hoc Committee on the Administration of Justice at the United Nations	www.un.org/law/administrationofjustice/
Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996	www.un.org/law/terrorism/
Ad Hoc Committee on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Property	www.un.org/law/jurisdictionalimmunities/
Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings	www.un.org/law/cloning/
Ad Hoc Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel	www.un.org/law/UNsafetyconvention/

United Nations A/70/424

General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 113 (e)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 9 October 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations for the term 2016-2018 at elections to be held during the seventieth session of the General Assembly, in New York.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines respectfully requests the Office of the President of the General Assembly to circulate the present note and its annex entitled "Candidature of the Philippines to the Human Rights Council, 2016-2018: a tradition of human rights protection, promotion and commitment at the national, regional and international levels" (see annex).

15-17887 (E) 191015

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 9 October 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of the Philippines to the Human Rights Council, 2016-2018

A tradition of human rights protection, promotion and commitment at the national, regional and international levels

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

National human rights policy

1. The Government of the Philippines attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights. The Constitution of the Philippines enshrines it as a State policy to value the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights. The Constitution elaborates civil and political rights in the Bill of Rights, has a stand-alone article on social justice and human rights to cover economic, social and cultural rights, and establishes an independent Commission on Human Rights, a national human rights institution.

2. Under the theme "Mainstreaming human rights in development and governance", the second Human Rights Plan 2012-2017 of the Philippines sets the track for mainstreaming human rights in government and the Philippine society. The Human Rights Plan, crafted under the supervision of the Presidential Human Rights Committee, an inter-agency body chaired by the Office of the President, covers the courses of action of the Government of the Philippines in line with its commitments under international human rights treaties. The Philippines has also mainstreamed human rights in the development of policies, plans and programmes through its national development plans, the latest of which is the economic and social growth agenda of the Government. Under the Philippine Development Plan, human rights are a cross-cutting concern, and the human rights-based approach to development is invoked as one of the main guiding principles.

National institutions

3. The Presidential Human Rights Committee is the main inter-agency body of the executive branch of government that coordinates the implementation of international human rights treaty obligations and national policies and programmes on human rights. The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines is an independent national human rights institution that monitors the Government's compliance with its human rights obligations.

Updates on key national legislation, policies and programmes

4. The Philippines recently enacted landmark bills to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights, such as the rights of women through the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012, the rights of the child through the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013 and the right to quality education through the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013. To further promote the rights of older persons, the Philippines amended the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 to provide for

mandatory Philippine health insurance coverage to all senior citizens. The Human Rights Victims Reparation and Recognition Act of 2013 was promulgated to provide for reparation and recognition of victims of human rights violations during the martial law regime of the former President of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos. The Philippines also recently adopted a law to protect the rights and promote the welfare of vulnerable sections of the population, such as domestic workers, through the Domestic Workers Act of 2012.

5. The Philippines has continued to give top priority to the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights through continued efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and to strengthening good governance through the sustained implementation of anti-corruption measures. With a development policy framework focused on improving transparency and accountability in governance, improving access to quality social services, enhancing peace and security for development, and ensuring ecological integrity, the Government of the Philippines is investing its resources in its people, with the aim to improve the quality of life of the Filipinos, empower the poor and marginalized and enhance social cohesion as a nation.

Influential role in the elaboration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

6. The Philippines made a lasting contribution to the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly on articles on the equal dignity and freedom of all human beings and on non-discrimination.

International human rights instruments

7. The Philippines is a State party to eight core international human rights instruments and six optional protocols, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, which the Philippines acceded to in April 2012.

Constructive member of the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary mechanisms

8. The Philippines was elected as a founding member of the Human Rights Council in 2006 and was re-elected for a second term in 2007, until 2010. The Philippines again served as a member of the Human Rights Council for the term from June 2011 to December 2014.

9. The Philippines continues to believe that the Human Rights Council should be a partner of States and stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights by providing a forum for genuine constructive dialogue, with a strong focus on capacity-building and international cooperation on human rights.

10. During the first year of the Council, the Permanent Representative of the Philippines in Geneva facilitated the Open-ended intergovernmental intersessional Working Group to formulate concrete recommendations on the agenda, the annual programme of work, the methods of work as well as rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, producing an important segment of the Council's institution-building package, as annexed to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1.

11. In June 2008, the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations in Geneva was elected Vice-President of the Human Rights Council, representing the Asia-Pacific States.

12. The Philippines also actively participated in the review of the Human Rights Council held in 2010/11, offering concrete recommendations to improve the work and functioning of the Council.

13. Philippine experts serve in the Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.

Universal periodic review

14. The Philippines strongly supports the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council. The Philippines firmly believes that the mechanism is a very useful tool in effecting real change on the ground, as it encourages all States Members of the United Nations to engage constructively and to work towards improving the human rights situation in a country, pursuant to its national priorities and international obligations and commitments.

15. The Philippines believes that there is a need for a stronger focus on the provision of international support for capacity-building, to enable countries to better implement their accepted recommendations.

16. The Philippines has undergone two cycles of the universal periodic review, with the involvement of high-level delegations that illustrate the strong commitment of the Government to that process. The delegation of the Philippines in Geneva actively participates in the sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review by serving on the troikas and by providing constructive comments and recommendations to the States under review.

Cooperation with treaty monitoring bodies

17. In fulfilment of its commitment to improving its reporting system to the human rights treaty bodies, the Philippines has submitted periodic reports on the implementation of human rights instruments to which it is a State party. Over the past year, the Philippines presented periodic reports to the Committee against Torture, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture visited the Philippines under their confidential inquiry procedures in 2012 and 2015, respectively.

18. The Government of the Philippines takes into account the views and concluding observations of the treaty bodies in the review and improvement of relevant legislation, policies and programmes, as well as in the formulation of its national human rights action plans.

Cooperation with human rights special procedures

19. The Philippines is open to constructive dialogue and cooperation with special procedures of the Human Rights Council. The Philippines is a main sponsor of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, who visited the Philippines in 2012.

20. Early in 2015, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food conducted a visit to the Philippines upon the invitation of the Government. The Philippines has also issued an official invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons to conduct a visit in 2015.

Contributions to international initiatives on the promotion and protection of human rights and support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

21. As the main sponsor of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Philippines is actively engaged in pushing for stronger normative frameworks and better international collaboration to fight this scourge.

22. The Philippines continues to work with partner countries to ensure that the issue of the adverse impact of climate change on the realization of human rights remains at the forefront of discussions in the Human Rights Council.

23. The Philippines is also a member of the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training that co-sponsors the Human Rights Council resolutions on the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

24. Consistent with its belief that the protection of the human rights of the most vulnerable should remain the priority of the Human Rights Council, the Philippines consistently co-sponsors initiatives on issues involving the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, children, women, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

25. The Philippines also supports the initiatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights related to the protection of the human rights of migrants at international borders.

26. The Philippines, despite being a developing country, annually provides a voluntary financial contribution to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Working with national human rights institutions and civil society

27. The Philippines values the work of its national human rights institution and recognizes the institution's independence and important role in ensuring the Government's implementation of its human rights commitments and obligations.

28. The Government of the Philippines works closely with civil society at both the national and international levels on all human rights issues, conducts consultations in the formulation of relevant legislation, policies and programmes and engages civil society partners in regional and international forums.

Pledges and commitments

29. If re-elected to the Human Rights Council, the Philippines reiterates its commitment to:

(a) Working with all States and stakeholders in a constructive manner, fostering dialogue and cooperation, to make the Human Rights Council more efficient and effective as the prime body of the United Nations mandated to

strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights and to address human rights violations;

(b) Continuing to focus on the importance of meeting national, regional and international human rights goals, standards and strategies;

(c) Continuing to enhance the domestic implementation of all human rights treaty obligations and programmes, especially with regard to the eradication of extreme poverty, respect for the rule of law and the fulfilment of internationally agreed development goals;

(d) Continuing to be a voice for vulnerable groups, including migrants, women and children, and supporting human rights-based approaches that address their concerns in a comprehensive, positive and practical way;

(e) Continuing to be sensitive to current and emerging challenges that impact on human rights, such as climate change, human trafficking and migration;

(f) Continuing its active engagement with the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other mechanisms of the Human Rights Council;

(g) Continuing to uphold the universality of the universal periodic review, recognizing its potential to effect real changes on the ground through constructive dialogue and international cooperation;

(h) Continuing to support the important work of national human rights institutions;

(i) Continuing to have meaningful interaction and cooperation with civil society stakeholders on human rights issues, at both the national and international levels;

(j) Continuing to promote international initiatives on human rights, such as those on combating trafficking in persons, promoting human rights education and training, or discussions on the realization of the right to development, and to work closely with and support the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in this regard;

(k) Remaining actively engaged in regional human rights mechanisms and supporting efforts to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region.

United Nations A/70/425

General Assembly

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15 October 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 72 (a)
Promotion and protection of human rights

Implementation of human rights instruments

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly, pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/156, the eighth annual report of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT/C/54/2).

15-17901 (E) 151015

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United Nations A/70/426

General Assembly

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15 October 2015

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 112 (b)
Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs: election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

Letter dated 7 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In my capacity as Chair of the Western European and Others Group for the month of October 2015, I have the honour to inform you that Austria is relinquishing its seat in the Economic and Social Council for the remainder of 2015-2017, in accordance with the agreed rotation scheme within our Group, in favour of Ireland at the end of 2015.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated to Member States as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 112 (b).

(*Signed*) David **Donoghue**

15-17970 (E) 191015

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United Nations A/70/427–S/2015/791

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 October 2015

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to convey Armenia's grave concern about the significant escalation of tensions along the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and across the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan at the end of September 2015.

This latest escalation of tensions introduced new, alarming trends. First, there was an increase in the number of casualties among both the civilian population and military personnel. Three Armenian civilians from two border villages in Armenia were killed by Azerbaijani armed forces with the use of mortar launchers. The three victims were women, two of them elderly. They were killed in their own houses and farms, far from military positions.

Second, Azerbaijani armed forces shelled the military infrastructure of the Nagorno-Karabakh Defence Army, located 5 km from the line of contact, using 120 mm mortars, 107 mm rockets and 122 mm D-30 howitzers. The last-mentioned was used for the first time since the signing of a ceasefire agreement in 1994. The heavy shelling resulted in 4 casualties and 16 wounded from the Nagorno-Karabakh Defence Army.

Killing civilians in border territories and shelling military infrastructure far away from the line of contact demonstrate a deliberate choice by Azerbaijan to escalate tensions into new a stage of confrontation.

The intentional targeting of civilians, along with the systematic torture and killing of civilians from the border territory of Armenia who fell under the custody of Azerbaijan, may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Such crimes should not go unpunished. We call upon the international community to condemn in the strongest terms the crimes perpetrated against civilians.

15-18052 (E) 231015

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It should be stressed that the timing of this deliberate escalation is certainly not accidental. Azerbaijan has developed an ill practice of escalating tensions, including at the expense of human casualties, ahead of important visits to the region and high-level meetings, thus undermining and impeding the negotiation process. The latest renewed provocation by Azerbaijan came as a response to the expectations expressed by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs on holding productive talks between the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in New York at the end of September. I attach to the present letter a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the meeting of Minster for Foreign Affairs Edward Nalbandian with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs of 24 September 2015 (see annex I).

The introduction of an investigative mechanism to ceasefire violations is essential in maintaining a ceasefire and putting an end to the blame game. Armenia has once again reiterated its agreement to introduce such an investigative mechanism, while Azerbaijan continues to reject it. This fact is acknowledged by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group in their press releases of 26 September 2015. I attach to the present letter their statement (see annex II).

Furthermore, the consistent efforts of Azerbaijan to downsize the presence of the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office of OSCE fit into the overall policy of Azerbaijan to prevent the consolidation of a ceasefire.

Finally, it is evident that, when Baku is interested in a ceasefire, as was the case during the European Games, held in Azerbaijan in June 2015, its armed forces are able to maintain it quite efficiently. The data on ceasefire violations before, during and after this event are very illustrative in this regard. This fact points most clearly in the direction of the party initiating ceasefire violations.

Armenia firmly believes that the process of a political settlement of the conflict requires favourable conditions on the ground. To reach fair, lasting and negotiated peace, the ceasefire regime needs to be firmly consolidated and human casualties need to come to an end.

I kindly request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Edward Nalbandian meets Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group Co-Chairs

24 September 2015

Upon arrival in New York on the evening of 24 September, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian had a meeting with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs, Igor Popov, James Warlick and Pierre Andrieu. Andrzej Kasprzyk, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, participated in the meeting.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia expressed his indignation to the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs over the gross violations of the ceasefire by Azerbaijan, which caused human losses among the civilian population.

"Azerbaijan has developed a bad practice of escalating the situation, even at the expense of human casualties, on the line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh and the border with Armenia, ahead of important visits to the region and high-level meetings, thus undermining the meetings and impeding the negotiation process", underlined Minister Nalbandian.

Strongly condemning the killing of three Armenian citizens as a result of a ceasefire violation by Azerbaijan, Minister Nalbandian said, "This, yet another provocation by Azerbaijan, came as a response to the expectation, expressed by the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, of holding productive talks between [the] Armenian and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers in New York".

The possible steps towards the stabilization of the situation were discussed at the meeting.

Annex II to the letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press statement by the Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group

New York, 26 September 2015

The Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group (Ambassadors Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, James Warlick of the United States of America and Pierre Andrieu of France), together with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, held a meeting on 24 September with the Foreign Minister of Armenia, Edward Nalbandian, and a separate meeting on 25 September with the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Elmar Mammadyarov. They also met jointly with the two foreign ministers to discuss the immediate need to reduce tensions along the line of contact and international border, to advance negotiations on a lasting settlement and to implement confidence-building measures. The ministers agreed to continue preparations with the Co-Chairs on the next presidential summit, which is expected to be held before the end of this year.

The Co-Chairs called for the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to accept an OSCE mechanism to investigate ceasefire violations. Without such a mechanism, the sides will continue to blame each other for initiating deadly attacks on the line of contact and Armenia-Azerbaijan border. Armenia has agreed to discuss the details of the mechanism, and we urged Azerbaijan to do the same.

The Co-Chairs condemned in strong terms the use of artillery that caused additional casualties in the last 24 hours. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the deceased. An escalation of violence is not in the interest of Azerbaijanis or Armenians, or a negotiated settlement.

The Co-Chairs encouraged the sides to implement people-to-people programmes to build trust between societies affected by the conflict.

United Nations A/70/428–S/2015/795

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Security Council

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14 October 2015

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 108
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on measures to eliminate international terrorism, including the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and the approach to international cooperation in efforts to combat terrorism and religious extremism, which was delivered at the first meeting of the Sixth Committee of the seventieth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 108 on Monday, 12 October 2015.

I request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-18021 (E) 201015 201015

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Annex to the letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on measures to eliminate international terrorism, including the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and the approach to international cooperation in efforts to combat terrorism and religious extremism

We the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) express our deep concern at the sharp increase in the activities of terrorist and extremist groups, which pose a direct threat to international peace and security.

We are convinced that the terrorist threat can be effectively combated solely on the basis of international law and with the United Nations playing a central and coordinating role. We believe that a multifaceted approach to solving the problem of terrorism, as consolidated in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, is needed more than ever.

We call upon all States to comply strictly with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly on counter-terrorism. We place particular emphasis on the task of opposing financial, ideological and training support for terrorism.

In this connection, we draw attention to recent initiatives of the heads of State of CSTO member countries relating, among other things, to the coordination of the action of all forces opposed to the "Islamic State" (IS) and other terrorist formations; agreement on a relevant Security Council resolution concerning the establishment of a United Nations coalition against terror; the unification of mechanisms for the prosecution of individuals involved in terrorist or extremist activities; the drawing up of a consolidated list of terrorist organizations; and the eradication of the root causes of terrorism and extremism.

Terrorism cannot and must not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. We call on all States to join forces to repel and prevent terrorist threats. Accordingly, we firmly condemn any attempts to politicize the fight against terrorism or to apply a double standard, including for the purpose of interfering, under the banner of counter-terrorism, in the internal affairs of sovereign States and destabilizing Governments deemed to be "undesirable".

We consider that under the present circumstances the top priority is to oppose the leading international terrorist organizations, first and foremost, the Islamic State. We advocate coordination on issues relating to the fight against the Islamic State, above all among all the States that are engaged in that fight.

At this juncture, the task of combating the phenomenon of "foreign terrorist fighters" has taken on particular relevance. Overcoming this very dangerous aspect of the global terrorist threat calls for the implementation by all States of the agreed set of measures envisaged in the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular, resolution 2178 (2014); the exchange of information between the

competent authorities on identification of foreign terrorist fighters and their movements; improving border controls; preventing the radicalization and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters; opposing the provision of financing and assistance for the activities of foreign terrorist fighters; instituting more severe penalties for charges brought against foreign terrorist fighters; and expanding international cooperation in this sphere.

We express our readiness to collaborate constructively with all interested States and international organizations, and above all the United Nations, in combating terrorism and other criminal challenges and threats to security.

United Nations A/70/429–S/2015/789

General Assembly
Security Council

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16 October 2015
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 108
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 14 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

The Russian Federation has taken a number of measures in response to a request from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Government of the Russian Federation to cooperate in countering terrorism and to provide military support for the counter-terrorism efforts of the Syrian Government and the Syrian Arab Army. Those measures include providing air support for ground operations conducted by the Syrian Arab Army in its war against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations. The Russian Federation is also striking the bases, camps, munitions depots and command posts of armed terrorist groups that are in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

This support, which is being provided in response to a request from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, is fully consistent with international law, the Charter of the United Nations, international counter-terrorism instruments and Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), all of which reaffirm the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian Arab Republic has repeatedly called on the international community to cooperate and coordinate with it fully and closely, whether in a multilateral or bilateral context, but those calls have fallen on deaf ears. Instead, some States have perverted the substance of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations in order to violate the sovereignty of Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic expresses its profound gratitude to the Russian leadership, people and army for their efforts to counter terrorism in accordance with international legality, international law and the Charter of the United Nations. It also stresses that the actions of the Russian Federation should be emulated by other

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States and that the efforts of Russia to counter the terrorism perpetrated by ISIL, the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations associated with Al-Qaida will bring about conditions that are conducive to the success of the political process in Syria.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative